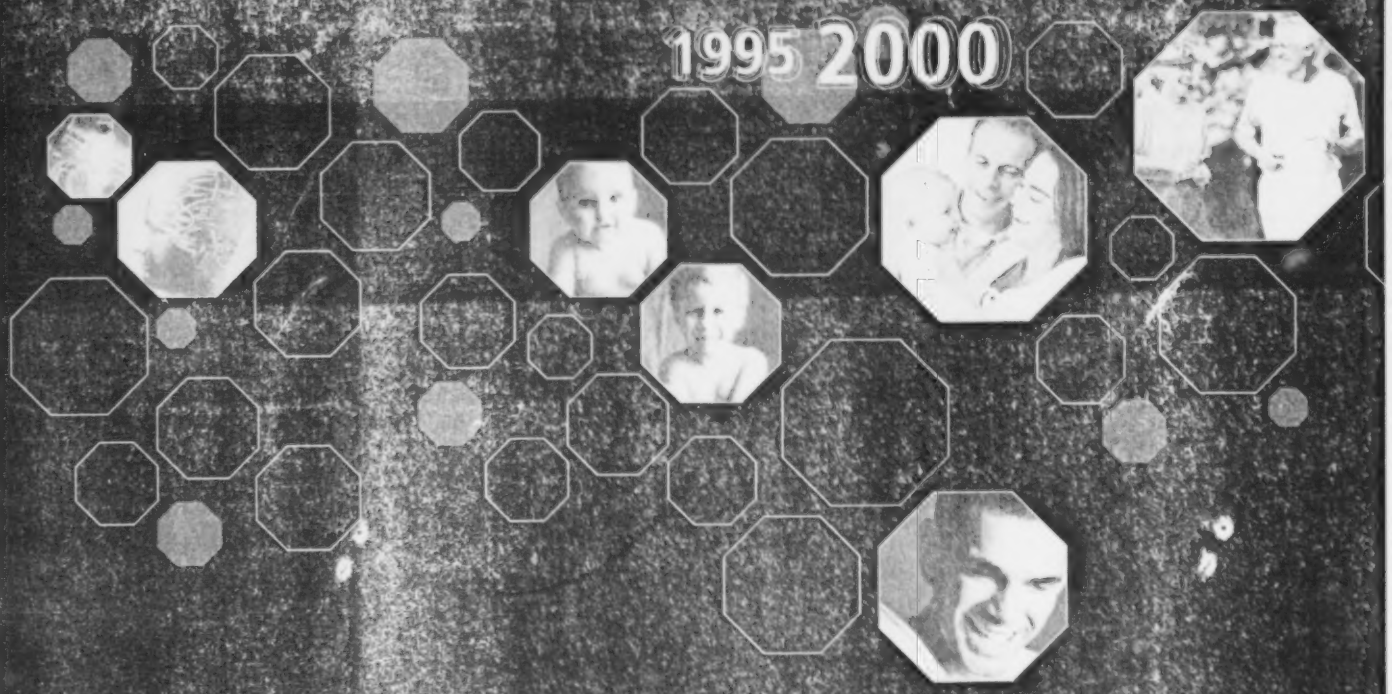
AN INVENTORY OF HEALTH RESEARCH volume 2

Using Research to Improve Health:

FIVE YEARS OF ACTIVITY AT AHFMR

1995 2000



ALBERTA HERITAGE FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

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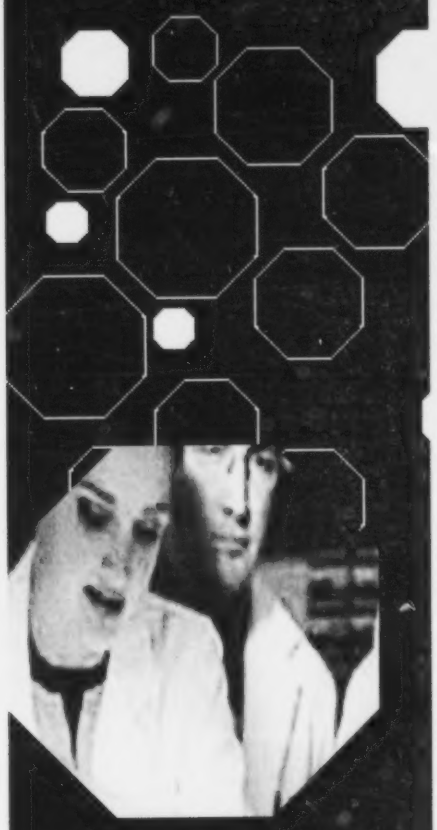
Table of Contents



1. Introduction 2

3. Projects and Activities 3

Health Services Research 3
Health Resources Research 17
Population Health Research 22
Health Policy Research 33
AHFMR Opportunity Fund Projects 48
SEARCH Projects 50
Dissemination Projects 73
Technology Commercialization Projects 77

4. Linking 82

Community Health Research Travel Fund 82
Visiting Lecturer Program: Community Health Research Professor 85
Visiting Lecturer Program: Community Health Research - Visiting Scientist From Alberta 86
Visiting Lecturer Program: Community Health Research - Visiting Scientist to Alberta 86
Visiting Lecturer Program: Community Health Research Conference Grants 87

4. People: Human Resources Capacity Building 91

Career Awards 91
Training Awards 99
SEARCH Participants 102

5. People: Drawing on Experience 105

AHFMR Senior Staff 105
Advisory Committees 105
SEARCH Faculty 113

6. AHFMR Publications 116

HTA Publications 116
Dissemination Publications 121
AHFMR Reports 121
AHFMR Recurring Reports Related to Health Research 122

Index of People 123

Index of Organizations 132

Index of Keywords 134

INTRODUCTION

The Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (AHFMR) supports biomedical and health research in the province of Alberta. Since its inception in 1980, the Foundation's activities have and continue to be, very strongly rooted in the areas of biomedical and clinical research. Over the past five years however, its focus on health research has grown considerably.

The two volume report Using Research to Improve Health: Five Years of Activity at AHFMR, provide both an overview of the components of the Foundation's Health Research Program (Volume 1) and an inventory of funded activities during the years 1995-2000 (Volume 2). We are hopeful that it will serve as a gateway into the health research activities supported by the Foundation and that it will encourage and support connections among all stakeholders in health research.

This document is Volume 2: An Inventory of AHFMR Activities 1995-2000.

2 PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

The research projects listed here are sorted according to the research type or category: Health Services, Health Resources, Population Health, and Health Policy.

This classification system follows the health research definitions described in the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research's Health Research Agenda of 1997-98. While we have divided the projects according to these categories so that users of this directory can more easily find research related to their needs, we recognize that health research is interrelated and there will be some overlap.

Health Services Research

Health Services Research refers to the assessment or evaluation of some aspect of a specific health-related service, procedure or intervention. Projects categorized as Health Services research were further subdivided according to the aspect of health services that was investigated:

- Diagnosis (assessment of a particular diagnostic test, technique, or screening process used to detect the presence of a disease or condition)
- Therapeutics (assessment of a particular invasive or non-invasive procedure or intervention associated with conventional medicine and used to treat a particular disease or condition – e.g., drug therapy, rehabilitation, cancer therapy)
- Allied therapies (assessment of a therapy not typically associated with conventional medicine, including psychotherapy, nutritional interventions, alternative medicine, supportive care, new reproductive technologies)
- Levels of care (assessment of a particular level of care such as emergency care, long-term care, intensive care, and home care).

Addington, Jean, University of Calgary (Calgary Foothills Hospital Addiction Centre)

Can group treatment help schizophrenics with substance abuse problems?

There is a need to develop an effective and replicable treatment to help individuals with schizophrenia address their substance abuse problems. This project will determine the effectiveness of a biweekly meeting of a group of 20 schizophrenics with substance abuse problems. The components of the group will be support, psycho-education, and skills training.

"Group Treatment for Substance Abusing Schizophrenics"

Term of Approval: 1995 - 1997

Funding for Term: $8,329

Baker, Glen, University of Alberta

Can drugs be made that better manage panic disorder?

This research compares the effects of two drugs commonly used to treat panic disorder and assesses whether a second generation of these drugs would be more effective in managing panic disorder and depression. The project includes a series of basic science and clinical experiments that may give new information about the brain chemicals involved in panic disorder.

"Mechanisms of Action and Metabolism of Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors: Relevance to Depression and Panic Disorder"

Term of Approval: 1997 - 1998

Funding for Term: $25,000

Baker, Glen, University of Alberta

When taken together how do antidepressant drugs interact?

The research is studying the fluoxetine (Prozac)-desipramine and fluoxetine-trazodone combinations, which are used quite commonly in treating depressed patients. The study is also testing drug-drug interactions with Tacrine, a prescription available for the treatment of Alzheimer's Disease.

"Mechanisms of Metabolic Drug-Drug Interactions Involving Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors"

Term of Approval: 1995 - 1998

Funding for Term: $64,998

Bateson, Alan, University of Alberta

What is the root cause of depression?

Drugs that act on a particular pathway of brain communication are widely used in the treatment of depression, but patients do not feel their effects immediately. Scientists now think other paths of brain communication involving GABA neurotransmitters may also be linked to depression. This project tests the long-term effects on GABA neurotransmitters of three chemicals found in antidepressants.

"Antidepressant Modulation of GABA Receptor Gene Expression: Effect of Venlafaxine, Fluoxetine and Maprotiline"

Term of Approval: 1997 - 1999

Funding for Term: $35,000

Bateson, Alan, University of Alberta

How does a common brain hormone work with different antidepressants and antianxiety drugs?

This project is studying the role of the brain hormone GABA in the actions of several antidepressant/antipanic drugs. The results obtained will increase our insight into the source and progress of depression, anxiety and panic disorder, and will aid in the future design of drugs to treat these disorders.

"GABA Receptors and the Actions of Antidepressant Antipanic Drugs"

Term of Approval: 1995 - 1996

Funding for Term: $2,524

Belenkie, Israel, Calgary Regional Health Authority (Calgary Foothills Hospital)

What is the best way to manage congestive heart failure: therapy at outpatient clinics or conventional drugs?

Drugs used to treat congestive heart failure (CHF) are subjected to rigorous clinical trials. However, non-drug therapies or interventions, such as congestive heart failure clinics, are not scrutinized in the same manner. This project follows patients in both the traditional and CHF settings to determine which one is better from a number of viewpoints, including cost to health care system.

"The Medical and Economic Impact of an Outpatient Program to Treat Patients with Congestive Heart Failure"

Term of Approval: 1996 - 1998

Funding for Term: $64,325

Bhambhani, Yagesh, University of Alberta

Does exercise help patients with traumatic brain injury recover physical ability?

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) can result in loss of consciousness, skull fractures, and post-traumatic amnesia. This study will examine the effects of exercise and the withdrawal of exercise on the physical and mental health of TBI patients.

"Aerobic Conditioning in Traumatic Brain Injury"

Term of Approval: 1999 - 2000

Funding for Term: $42,750

Breen, Terrance, Calgary Regional Health Authority

What is the most effective form of pain relief during childbirth?

The effect of anaesthetic on the progress of labour and the method of delivery is the largest question in obstetric anesthesia today. The study compares the effectiveness and long-term results of epidural and narcotic analgesia in obstetrics.

"Multi-Centre Trial of the Effects of Analgesia on the Progress of Labour"

Term of Approval: 1997 - 1999

Funding for Term: $100,000

Cinats, John, Capital Regional Health Authority

How do you restore knee movement immediately after knee replacement surgery?

The use of a continuous passive motion machine immediately after surgery has been shown to increase the early range of motion after knee surgery. This study compares these results to the results obtained from the use of an alternative, less expensive and more easily maintained device.

"The Efficacy and Cost of Early Knee Range of Motion Post Total Knee Arthroplasty"

Term of Approval: 1997 - 1999

Funding for Term: $43,500

Coupland, Nicholas, University of Alberta

Do certain drugs used to treat panic disorder actually provoke the recurrence of panic disorder?

Panic disorder, which is defined by recurrent, unexpected panic attacks that cause intense distress. It affects four percent of the adult population, particularly women, and commonly leads to depression. This study compares a standard drug used to treat panic disorder with another drug to see if the standard drug provokes the recurrence of panic disorder.

"Peptides and Panic Disorder"

Term of Approval: 1997 - 1999

Funding for Term: $39,000

Coutts, Ronald, University of Alberta

How are Prozac and trimipramine metabolized in the body?

Experiments are planned to provide important information about the metabolism and stereochemistry of fluoxetine (Prozac) and trimipramine, two widely prescribed antidepressants. Knowledge of how these drugs are metabolized is important because metabolites may contribute to the beneficial and/or adverse side effects of the drugs, and they also have implications for drug-drug interactions.

"Studies of Metabolism of the Antidepressants Fluoxetine and Trimipramine in Humans"

Term of Approval: 1995 - 1997

Funding for Term: $20,780

Davis, Teresa, University of Alberta

Can treating panic disorder in affected asthmatics reduce the severity of asthma attacks?

A significant number of asthmatics also suffer from panic disorder, which can make asthma symptoms worse. This project will determine the effectiveness of asthma education and treatment for panic attacks.

"The Asthma-Panic Project"

Term of Approval: 1998 - 2000

Funding for Term: $99,000

Dobbs, Allen, University of Alberta

Can a driving assessment program for people with dementia also be used on normal elderly people?

Many people with dementia continue to drive. This is a challenge for doctors, licensing agencies, and society. Normal elderly people have the same or higher crash rates as the high-risk 16-25 age group. The research develops an ongoing, community-based prevention program to assess people with early dementia and determines whether it can help predict driving skills of normal elderly people.

"Evaluation of a Fitness-to-Drive Assessment for Cognitively Impaired Elderly People"

Term of Approval: 1995 - 1996

Funding for Term: $4,000

Dobbs, Allen, University of Alberta

Is there a way to evaluate the driving ability of elderly people with dementia?

There is a lack of knowledge about how to assess the driving competence of people who are in the early stages of dementia. The primary objective of this research is to develop a test to evaluate driving competence in elderly people with dementia. Subjects will receive a set of tests to measure selected cognitive functions that have been shown to affect competence in younger drivers.

"Driving and Dementia"

Term of Approval: 1995 - 1996

Funding for Term: $4,000

Dryden, William, University of Alberta

When taken chronically for a time, how do antidepressant drugs affect the brain?

This study examines how chronic exposure to antidepressants alters brain cell signals. The findings may explain why some drugs may take weeks to produce results, and the information could lead to the development of faster-acting antidepressants.

"Chronic Antidepressant Effects on Transduction Mechanisms in the Brain"

Term of Approval: 1996 - 1997

Funding for Term: $25,000

Dryden, William, University of Alberta

Why do some antidepressants take a while to work?

This study examines the hypothesis that the delay in response to some antidepressants is due to brain cells adapting to the drug chemicals. New information may lead to future drugs that act more quickly and are more effective in treating depression.

"Chronic Antidepressant Drug Effects and Synaptic Transduction Mechanisms"

Term of Approval: 1997 - 1998

Funding for Term: $34,000

Fang, Jian, University of Alberta

How are anti-psychotic drugs broken down by the liver?

Three of the most frequently prescribed anti-psychotic drugs require painstaking adjustments in dosage for every patient. The researcher looks for specific chemical reactions of liver cell cultures to these drugs to determine if drug doses can be more accurately made for patients at the start of therapy.

"Endogenous and Environmental Factors Affecting the Metabolism of the Antipsychotics Haloperidol, Clozapine, and Risperidone"

Term of Approval: 1997 - 1998

Funding for Term: $39,000

Goldberg, Bluma, Canadian Mental Health Association

How does activity affect quality of life for mentally ill people?

The goal of this study is to determine if there is a statistically significant relationship between the extent of engagement in meaningful activities and subjective perception of quality of life for those who are disabled due to mental illness. This information will be very useful in restructuring processes of Alberta Mental Health.

"The Relationship between Engagement in Meaningful Activities and Quality of Life of People Disabled Due to Mental Illness"

Term of Approval: 1995 - 1996

Funding for Term: $401

Greenshaw, Andrew, University of Alberta

How does the anti-psychotic drug Clozapine work on the brain?

Clozapine is an anti-psychotic drug that is therapeutically superior to typical antipsychotics in at least a subset of schizophrenics, and rarely causes side-effects with prolonged clinical use. The underlying mechanism for the atypical profile of clozapine may be related to its action on brain 5-hydroxytryptamine (5-HT) systems. In this project, the effects of 5-HT will be assessed.

"5-HT Receptors and Atypical Anti-Psychotic Drug Action"

Term of Approval: 1995 - 1997

Funding for Term: $40,548

Hull, Russell, University of Calgary

Which treatment for pregnancy vein thrombosis is more effective?

This study compares the medical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of two ways of delivering a drug used to treat pregnant women with deep vein thrombosis, a potentially life-threatening condition.

"Pregnancy-Associated Thrombosis"

Term of Approval: 1996 - 1998

Funding for Term: $95,000

Joyce, Anthony, University of Alberta

What factors influence the effectiveness of short-term psychotherapy?

This study examines how different therapeutic techniques, the alliance between patient and therapist, and patient expectations all affect the outcome of time-limited individual psychotherapy. A control group of patients on a waiting list was compared to patients who received therapy. This is the second phase of the study.

"Patterns of Change and Expectancy in Short-Term Individual Psychotherapy"

Term of Approval: 1995 - 1997

Funding for Term: $14,000

Kerr, Linda, Capital Regional Health Authority (University of Alberta Hospitals Site)

How effective is amino acid therapy for abdominal peritoneal dialysis?

The study examines amino acid therapy when used with intensive nutritional support in patients undergoing abdominal peritoneal dialysis. Outcomes will be assessed in terms of quality of life of the patients.

"Nutrition Versus Amino Acids in Peritoneal Dialysis Patients"

Term of Approval: 1996 - 2000

Funding for Term: $120,000

Kimberly, Barry, University of Calgary

Is a new method for detecting hearing loss in infants the best test to use in universal screening?

Current methods for measuring hearing loss in infants are ineffective. The average age for detection is three years old, and by then irreversible impairment in speech and language development has occurred. A new, rapid, noninvasive and inexpensive method of measuring hearing in newborns is tested as a basis for universal screening. Infants are screened over a four-year period, and the results assessed for efficacy and cost.

"Universal Hearing Loss Detection in Newborns – Cost-Effectiveness"

Term of Approval: 1996 - 1997

Funding for Term: $60,000

Knudtson, Merrill L., University of Calgary

Does chelation therapy work better than conventional treatment for cardiac patients?

Chelation therapy is an alternative method of treating coronary artery disease. It is not approved by any professional medical association and is not funded by any health insurance agency. This study measures patients at the onset and at the end of therapy to see if there is a difference in cardiac status between patients treated with chelation and conventionally treated patients.

"PATCH Test - Chelation Controversy"

Term of Approval: 1997 - 2000

Funding for Term: $170,000

Konnert, Candace, University of Calgary

Can family and staff identify depression in long-term care residents?

A significant number of long-term care residents are in need of mental health services. Family members and long-term care staff are an important source of information about symptoms of depression and anxiety in patients. This study examines the consistency between these reporting sources so mental health professionals can confidently use these resources to treat mental health problems in long-term care patients.

"The Assessment of Depression and Anxiety in Long-Term Care Residents: How Good are Collateral Ratings?"

Term of Approval: 1997 - 1999

Funding for Term: $18,800

Macdonald, Ian, University of Alberta

Can a type of inherited blindness be diagnosed at an early age?

The researcher is working on a practical diagnostic test for an eye disorder known as choroideremia, which is hereditary, affects males, and leads to blindness. The establishment of a diagnostic test in Alberta could help clinicians more easily confirm the condition in young people.

"A Practical Diagnostic Test for Choroideremia"

Term of Approval: 1997 - 1998

Funding for Term: $20,000

Martin, Liam, University of Calgary

Can mineral supplements improve the health of fibromyalgia sufferers?

Fibromyalgia is a common disorder for which there is no known cure. This study will assess the effectiveness of mineral supplements in treating the disorder.

"A Randomized Controlled Trial of a Nutrient Supplement in the Treatment of Fibromyalgia"

Term of Approval: 1999 - 2000

Funding for Term: $38,000

Moore, Ronald B., University of Alberta

Is a new laser surgery the best approach for prostate enlargement?

In aging men, the prostate can enlarge and block the bladder outlet. The traditional surgical procedure is expensive, and many patients experience slow healing. Standard laser surgery is less expensive, but the technique is not ideal and continued disease is common. Dr. Moore's study investigates whether a new laser surgery procedure developed by his research group heals more effectively at less cost than the traditional surgical procedure.

"Laser Ablation of Prostate – Clinical Evaluation"

Term of Approval: 1997 - 2000

Funding for Term: $34,326

Powell, James, Calgary Regional Health Authority

What is the best way to stabilize a broken thighbone?

This study compares the medical effectiveness of two procedures for healing fractured femurs.

"A Comparison of Two Procedures Used in Stabilization of Femoral Shaft"

Term of Approval: 1996 - 1999

Funding for Term: $66,000

Purdon, Scott, Capital Regional Health Authority

Is schizophrenia related to disconnections between specific areas of the brain?

This research will test hypotheses that schizophrenia is related to disconnections between specific areas of the brain.

"Dorsolateral and Orbitobasal Circuitry in Differential Manifestations of Schizophrenia"

Term of Approval: 1995 - 1996

Funding for Term: $2,966

Rangayyan, Rangaraj, University of Calgary

Can computer-enhanced mammograms better detect tumors?

This study will further test recently developed methods for computer-enhanced mammography images to distinguish between benign and malignant tumors. These imaging techniques could lead to earlier diagnosis of breast cancer.

"Computer-Aided Enhancement and Analysis of Mammograms for the Diagnosis of Early Breast Cancer"

Term of Approval: 1998 - 2000

Funding for Term: $100,000

Robinson, John, University of Calgary

Can a sex education program for women who have undergone cancer therapy help them to improve their sex lives?

Problems related to sexual health have been increasingly recognized in women treated with gynecological cancers. This study will assess whether an educational program to resolve sexual dysfunction is more helpful to patients than providing them with brief information during radiation treatment.

"Sexuality and Gynecological Cancer"

Term of Approval: 1998 - 2001

Funding for Term: $80,000

Silverstone, Peter, University of Alberta

How does the drug, lithium work to treat bipolar (manic-depressive) patients?

Lithium has been used for many years to treat manic-depression, but scientists are uncertain how it actually works in the brain. This project is the first to test the hypothesis that lithium blocks the breakdown of certain chemicals. The research team conducted a clinical trial to measure the effect of lithium on different chemical pathways in the body. Specific information arising from the project may help in the development or administering of drugs to bipolar patients.

"Changes in Phosphoinositol in Bipolar Patients on Lithium"

Term of Approval: 1997 - 1998

Funding for Term: $15,000

Simpson, John, University of Calgary

Is psychotherapy helpful for breast cancer patients?

The project assesses the benefits of psychotherapy for 100 breast cancer patients over a two-year span. The patients will be divided into two groups to compare those who receive therapy to those who do not. The researcher hopes to demonstrate that patients who have therapy cope better, have less stress, and use health care resources effectively.

"Psychotherapy in Breast Cancer"

Term of Approval: 1996 - 1998

Funding for Term: $30,000

Suarez-Almazor, Maria E., University of Alberta

Can MRI identify who needs arthroscopic surgery for damaged knees?

Magnetic resonance imaging can be used to help diagnose knee injuries. This study determines how accurately MRI predicts which patients are likely to benefit from arthroscopic surgery. If prediction is accurate, expensive and unnecessary surgery could be avoided.

"Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Arthroscopy in Patients with Internal Derangement of the Knee"

Term of Approval: 1996 - 1999

Funding for Term: $35,000

Suarez-Almazor, Maria E., University of Alberta

What is the best way to use radiographs to identify lower back pain?

Nearly one-quarter of adults experience lower back pain. Many patients with lower back pain are radiographed, but often the causes of the pain are not evident on the x-rays. Also, lower-back x-rays can have a serious effect on the reproductive organs. The project proposes a series of clinical practice guidelines for the use of radiographs in lower back pain.

"Lumbar Radiographs in the Early Evaluation of Patients with Lower Back Pain"

Term of Approval: 1994 - 1996

Funding for Term: $113,300

Tam, Teresa, Capital Regional Health Authority (Grey Nuns Hospital)

What is the best way to counsel elderly patients about nutrition after a hospital stay?

Early discharge from hospital can lead to malnourishment in elderly patients after they leave the support of hospital dieticians. In this study, dieticians followed patients in their homes and compare their nutrition to that of other patients who are seen by a hospital dietician only. The goal is a smooth transition to home care, decreased costs to the system, and improved health of elderly people.

"Outcomes of Nutrition Support in the Home"

Term of Approval: 1997 - 1999

Funding for Term: $89,000

Verhoef, Marja, University of Calgary

Does chiropractic treatment help headache management?

This study follows 120 patients who suffer severe headaches to assess if treating headaches with a combination of standard medical and chiropractic treatments is more effective than standard medical treatment alone.

"A Randomized Controlled Study Comparing the Efficacy of Medical Treatment With and Without Chiropractic Treatment in Headache Patients Attending the Calgary General Hospital Headache Clinic"

Term of Approval: 1997 - 2000

Funding for Term: $52,000

Wessel, Jean, University of Alberta

Do exercise and education help women with fibromyalgia?

The chronic pain of fibromyalgia results in major disability and handicap for sufferers. It carries a financial cost in health care and in time lost from work. This study determines whether separate exercise and education programs are equally effective at relieving symptoms, or whether a combined exercise and education program is of most benefit to patients.

"An Evaluation of the Effect of Exercise and Education for Women with Fibromyalgia"

Term of Approval: 1997 - 1999

Funding for Term: $65,000

Whitelaw, William, University of Calgary

Can a low-tech device diagnose sleep apnea?

Obstructive sleep apnea interrupts breathing and causes the patient to wake up to resume breathing. Currently, patients must go to a sleep lab for diagnosis of this disorder. This study will test the effectiveness of a low-tech device to use at home to diagnose sleep apnea.

"High- Versus Low-Tech to Assess Sleep Apnea"

Term of Approval: 1999 - 2000

Funding for Term: $50,000

Health Resources Research

Health Resources Research refers to the assessment or evaluation of a resource used in the delivery of health services. Resource characteristics include capability (what can be done), capacity (how much can be done) and quality (how well can it be done). Health resources research projects were further classified according to the type of resource involved:

- Human resources
- Facilities (e.g., acute hospitals, departments, long-term care facilities)
- Programs of care
- Medical technology
- Drugs

Dort, Joseph, University of Calgary

What is the best way to determine hearing loss in infants?

Approximately six children per 1,000 are born with mild to profound hearing loss. Early detection of hearing loss is important, because the first three years of life are critical for speech and language development. In this study, a new method of testing infant hearing loss is compared to two other currently used methods. Approximately 3,500 newborns at the Foothills Hospital are screened for hearing loss over a two-year period.

"Hearing Screening in Newborns: Cost-Effective Strategies"

Term of Approval: 1997 - 2000

Funding for Term: $73,000

Farris, Karen, University of Alberta

What is the best way to help seniors take prescriptions properly?

This study follows 227 senior patients who are clients of 16 community-based pharmacies. It documents the health needs assessment, medical histories, real and potential drug-related problems, and medical progress of the participants before and after receiving pharmaceutical care.

"Healthcare Outcomes of Senior Albertans after Provision of Pharmaceutical Care: A Practice-Based Research Initiative"

Term of Approval: 1997 - 1998

Funding for Term: $25,000

Flemons, Ward, University of Calgary

What is the most cost-effective way to set therapeutic machines for sleep apnea?

About six to nine percent of adults suffer from life-threatening obstructive sleep apnea, sometimes called the "snoring disease." It can be managed with positive pressure sleeping masks that must be set at the correct level. Currently, setting the equipment requires an expensive visit to the sleep lab. This study determines if three other much less expensive setting methods, two of them done in the home, are equally efficient.

"CE of Strategies for Prescribing Nasal CPAP (Sleep Apnea)"

Term of Approval: 1996 - 1999

Funding for Term: $135,000

Hessel, Patrick, University of Alberta

Do community-based asthma education programs work?

Seven percent of Albertans have asthma, a figure that rises to more than 10 percent when only children are considered. This research project will develop and evaluate the effectiveness of a community-based education program for adults and children with asthma.

"A Comprehensive Community-Based Intervention for Asthma"

Term of Approval: 1998 - 2000

Funding for Term: $100,000

Hodgins, David, University of Calgary

Can self-help booklets help problem gamblers with their addiction?

Problem gambling is increasing in Alberta. This research project will test the effectiveness of self-help intervention in helping problem gamblers cope with and cure their addiction.

"Minimal Self-Help Interventions with Problem Gamblers"

Term of Approval: 1998 - 2000

Funding for Term: $64,000

Hogan, David, University of Calgary

Can the number of falls be reduced among the elderly?

Falls are the most common cause of accidental injury and accidental death in seniors. This research project compares a standard care program to a new education program, aimed at preventing falls in those seniors who have already had a fall.

"Reducing Falls Among Older Adults"

Term of Approval: 1997 - 2000

Funding for Term: $55,000

Johnston, Donald, University of Alberta

Does exercise before a knee replacement operation reduce recovery time?

This study monitors the effect of an exercise and education program followed by patients before knee replacement surgery, to see if the recovery period is shortened. The study involves 150 patients between the ages of 39 and 76, recruited from a list of patients awaiting knee surgery.

"The Effect of Preoperative Exercise on Recovery Time and Functional Outcome of a Total Knee Arthroplasty"

Term of Approval: 1997 - 2000

Funding for Term: $82,000

MacLeod, Bruce D., Foothills Hospital (Calgary)

Is a standard approach to chronic pain treatment the best management system for emergency departments?

Chronic pain is a problem in hospital emergency departments, where the treatment available is expensive and inadequate. This research evaluates an alternative "Calgary System" that should ease the load from emergency departments and help chronic pain sufferers more effectively at less cost.

"The Calgary Emergency Department Chronic Pain Program"

Term of Approval: 1997 - 1998

Funding for Term: $29,479

Martin, Liam, University of Calgary

Can exercise help in the treatment of fibromyalgia?

Fibromyalgia is described as a chronic condition that causes aches and pains throughout the body. An estimated two to 10 percent of the general population suffer from the disorder, and some of them are on long-term disability. This study evaluates the effectiveness of a long-term exercise and self-management program in the treatment of fibromyalgia.

"An Education and Exercise Program in the Treatment of Fibromyalgia"

Term of Approval: 1997 - 1999

Funding for Term: $90,000

McGhan, Shawna, University of Alberta

Is an interactive game a good tool to help young children deal with their asthma?

This study will evaluate whether the Roaring Adventures of Puff (RAP), an interactive game that uses books and puppets, is a good means of helping young children and their parents manage asthma. Three hundred and sixty children with asthma were randomly selected to participate in the study.

"The Evaluation of Asthma Education Program for Elementary School Children with Asthma"

Term of Approval: 1998 - 2000

Funding for Term: $87,891

Peters, Katherine, University of Alberta

Can intensive neonatal care help seriously ill infants recover and leave hospital sooner?

Very low birth-weight infants are cared for in a neonatal intensive care unit at considerable risk to the infant and at considerable cost to society. This study will evaluate the effectiveness of the neonatal individualized developmental care assessment program (NIDCAP), an innovative method for providing this care that may lower stress on these infants.

"Impact of Developmental Care in NICU"

Term of Approval: 1998 - 2000

Funding for Term: $90,000

Remmers, John, University of Calgary

Is a home monitor useful for diagnosis and management of sleep apnea?

Sleep apnea presents safety concerns in a number of situations, including highway driving. The project evaluates the usefulness of a new sleep apnea monitor, SNORESAT, for use by patients at home. The researchers hope that the monitor will improve diagnosis and management of sleep apnea. Because it can be used at home, it can be more cost-effective than sleep labs.

"Evaluation of a Novel Diagnosis and Treatment of Obstructive Sleep Apnea"

Term of Approval: 1996 - 1998

Funding for Term: $61,205

Remmers, John, University of Calgary

Can nasal continuous positive airway pressure be used to help treat congestive heart failure?

Congestive heart failure is a major clinical and public health problem. This study will investigate whether continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP), a device used to treat sleep apnea, can improve the survival rates of patients with congestive heart failure and Cheyne-Stokes respiration (a type of cardiac asthma) during sleep.

"Effectiveness of Nasal CPAP in Treating Congestive Heart Failure in Patients with Cheyne-Stokes Respiration During Sleep"

Term of Approval: 1998 - 2000

Funding for Term: $100,000

Suarez-Almazor, Maria E., University of Alberta

Are new guidelines for treating low back pain effective?

Approximately 50 percent of adults experience low back pain annually, and 15-20 percent of them will seek medical care. Currently, there are major variations in the way physicians manage low back pain. This research evaluates the cost-effectiveness of clinical practice guidelines for physical therapy in patients with low back pain.

"Physical Therapy in Patients with Low Back Pain: Cost-Effectiveness of Clinical Practice Guidelines."

Term of Approval: 1997 - 2000

Funding for Term: $90,000

Teo, Koon, University of Alberta

Is cardiac catheterization cost effective in preventing further kidney damage in patients with kidney disease?

This study compares several methods of treating patients at high risk for developing further kidney disease when undergoing cardiac catheterization.

"Cost-Effectiveness of Prevention of Contrast-Induced Nephropathy"

Term of Approval: 1996 - 1998

Funding for Term: $67,500

Population Health Research

Population Health Research refers to the assessment of the health of the general population or a specific subset of the population as measured by health status indicators and influenced by two determinants:

- Personal (including genetic endowment, lifestyle, behaviour, and environmental or sociological factors)
- Programs (including primary prevention programs, health promotion, screening programs, or socioeconomic programs)

Arboleda-Florez, Julio, University of Calgary

Can fingerprints indicate schizophrenia?

This study assesses a new method of determining genetic predisposition to schizophrenia that compares the differences in fingerprint ridge counts between a person's hands. The hypothesis is that the greater the difference in ridge counts between hands, the greater the predisposition to schizophrenia. The study determines the usefulness of the method by using a large sample of people. This is a collaborative project of the University of Alberta and University of Calgary.

"Use of Dermatoglyphic Fluctuating Asymmetry to Assess Genetic Influence in Schizophrenia"

Term of Approval: 1997 - 1998

Funding for Term: $30,000

Arboleda-Florez, Julio, University of Calgary

Is suicide by elderly people related to physical illness?

To answer the question, researchers analyzed files from the Medical Examiner's office and Alberta Health, and compared the health of people over 55 who committed suicide with that of people who died from motor vehicle accidents (the control group).

"Physical Illness and Suicide Among the Elderly"

Term of Approval: 1996 - 1997

Funding for Term: $12,000

Bell, Neil, University of Alberta

What is the best way for physicians to get current clinical practice information?

This study tests the effectiveness of three education methods – conferences, computer-assisted learning, and facilitated group learning – that are used to disseminate current clinical practice guidelines to physicians.

"The Effectiveness of Three Educational Strategies for the Dissemination of Clinical Practice Guidelines for Primary Care Physicians"

Term of Approval: 1997 - 2000

Funding for Term: $54,765

Bernier, François, University of Calgary

Do certain cysts detected in the fetus contribute to developmental delays later in some children?

Choroid plexus cysts are fluid-filled cysts thought to be linked to developmental delays in some children. This study will address the lack of information on these cysts and their effects.

"Developmental Outcome of Children who had Choroid Plexus Cysts Detected Antenatally"

Term of Approval: 1999 - 2000

Funding for Term: $33,088

Bland, Roger, University of Alberta

What is the health status of elderly Canadians?

A follow-up study to the first Canadian Study on Health and Aging (CSHA), which focused on the epidemiology of dementia including Alzheimer's disease, and also provided information on many aspects of the health status of elderly Canadians. CSHA-2 will provide a longitudinal review of subjects four years later. This is a unique opportunity to follow a large group of Canadians (10,263) aged 65 and over.

"Canadian Study on Health and Aging"

Term of Approval: 1995 - 1998

Funding for Term: $92,000

Bryant, Heather, Alberta Cancer Board

Is there a way to detect the recurrence of cancer in patients following colorectal cancer operations?

Half of all patients who undergo surgery for colorectal cancer will die in the following five years, most of them from recurrence of the disease. This study examines the use and effectiveness of surveillance tests following surgery.

"Colorectal Cancer Surveillance: Utilization and Outcomes"

Term of Approval: 1997 - 1999

Funding for Term: $69,500

Courneya, Kerry, University of Alberta

Can exercise improve the quality of life of colorectal cancer patients?

The research is studying the effects of exercise on the quality of life and physical fitness of post-operative colorectal cancer patients. Researchers will try to determine if this type of therapy can positively affect the physical, social, and emotional life of cancer patients.

"Physical Exercise and Quality of Life in Colorectal Cancer. Patients"

Term of Approval: 1998 - 2001

Funding for Term: $88,000

Darrah, Johanna, University of Alberta

Can patterns of development in normally developing babies be used in early intervention programs for developmentally delayed babies?

Approximately 800-900 babies are referred annually to early intervention programs in Alberta. This study aims to identify patterns in normal development that can be used to make these screening and intervention programs more effective.

"Evaluation of Infant Development"

Term of Approval: 1999 - 2000

Funding for Term: $48,194

Dewey, Deborah, University of Calgary

How do children with attention deficit disorder and those with reading disability compare for memory and motor skills?

Attention deficit disorder is the most common cause for referral to child mental health clinics in North America. There is a strong link between ADHD and learning disabilities. Comparing children with ADHD to those with reading disability may provide information about their memory and motor skills, and whether poor planning and organizational skills result in impaired motor coordination.

"Executive Function in Children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder"

Term of Approval: 1997 - 1999

Funding for Term: $50,000

Dobbs, Allen, University of Alberta

How do the elderly cope when they lose their driving licenses?

This examines the social, psychological, and physical health consequences when elderly people fail to pass a test for dementia and driving, and are told they must stop driving. The elderly subjects and a reliable informant for each will be interviewed.

"Driving and Dementia: Consequences of Evaluation"

Term of Approval: 1996 - 1997

Funding for Term: $43,000

Dobson, Keith, University of Calgary

What factors are linked to a relapse of clinical depression?

A 1994-95 National Population Health Survey suggests one in 20 Canadians experienced depression in the previous year. Understanding the factors linked to depression can lessen its effect on its victims. This study aims to identify factors linked to such a relapse.

"Relapse of Clinical Depression: Test of an Integrated Psychosocial Model"

Term of Approval: 1999 - 2000

Funding for Term: $47,500

Dobson, Keith, University of Calgary

What are the differences in how depressed and non-depressed people take in information and how they think?

This project compares three groups of people – those who are clinically depressed, those who are anxious, and those without diagnoses of psychiatric disorders – to see if there are differences in how they take in information and how they think. This is the first study to simultaneously investigate both information-processing and thought function in a well-controlled sample of clinically depressed patients.

"Cognition in Clinical Depression"

Term of Approval: 1997 - 1998

Funding for Term: $25,000

Elliot, Ruth, University of Alberta

Can foster grandmothers help improve the development of infants at risk for mental health problems?

Interventions targeted at infants' early environments can be cost effective and have been shown to reduce mental health problems later in childhood. First-time mothers aged 20-34 who have a low education level, are single parents and receive welfare are assessed for their physical, psychosocial, and environmental health in this study. It compares the health of mothers and infants receiving home visits by clinical practitioners with those who receive weekly visits from specially selected foster grandmothers.

"Infants at Psychosocial Risk and Their Caregivers: A Comparison of Two Community-Based Early Intervention Strategies (Birth-Three Years). Phase 1: Birth to 18 Months"

Term of Approval: 1997 - 1999

Funding for Term: $100,000

Epling, Frank, University of Alberta

What are the causes of activity anorexia?

When rats are fed one meal a day and allowed to run on an activity wheel, they run excessively, stop eating, and die of starvation. Physical activity depresses food intake, and lowered food intake pushes up activity. This feedback is called loop activity anorexia. This study is designed to identify the environmental and physiological factors that maintain activity anorexia.

"Behavioural and Physiological Determinants of Activity Anorexia"

Term of Approval: 1995 - 1996

Funding for Term: $2,091

Gilmour, Susan, University of Alberta

Does a liver transplant affect child development?

There have been few attempts to evaluate the effects of a liver transplant on child development. This study will examine age, diet, liver function, and other factors to see if they play a role in developmental delay.

"Child Development Post-Liver Transplant"

Term of Approval: 1997 - 1999

Funding for Term: $50,000

Hanley, David, University of Calgary

Does lack of sunlight cause Vitamin D deficiencies?

This research project is part of a larger Medical Research Council funded study of osteoporosis in 9,000 Canadian women and men over 25. This study of 300 Calgary residents will investigate whether there are seasonal causes linked to Vitamin D deficiencies and bone density loss.

"Serum 25 -Hydroxy -Vitamin D Levels and Bone Density"

Term of Approval: 1998 - 2000

Funding for Term: $85,000

Hodgins, David, University of Calgary

How do some people addicted to gambling cure their habit without professional help?

A recent survey shows that 93 percent of adult Albertans engage in some form of gambling and that five percent report their gambling is a problem. In this study, people who have recovered from a serious, destructive gambling habit without treatment will be compared to people who have not recovered. The results will identify negative and positive environmental factors that initiate or inhibit recovery.

"Natural Recovery from Gambling"

Term of Approval: 1996 - 1998

Funding for Term: $40,000

Hodgins, David, University of Calgary

How do mood disorders affect long-term alcohol abuse?

This is a follow-up of subjects participating in an earlier study, one purpose of which was to examine the link between mood disorders and negative emotional states as the cause of relapse in the first year after alcohol-dependent individuals quit their abuse. The main goal of this study is to further understand how mood disorders affect long-term alcohol abuse.

"Long-Term Follow-up of Substance Abuse in Mood Disorders"

Term of Approval: 1995 - 1996

Funding for Term: $234

Kaplan, Bonnie, University of Alberta

Which genes influence learning and attention disorders?

To help in the search for genes that influence developmental learning and attention disorders, the researcher is collecting and analyzing information from a sample of 800 people with dyslexia.

"Further Evaluation of Behavioural Phenotypes of Learning and Attention Disorders"

Term of Approval: 1997 - 1998

Funding for Term: $50,000

Konnert, Candace, University of Calgary

Does moving from the community to a nursing home cause depression in the elderly?

The purpose of this study is to predict post-relocation depression among the elderly moving from the community to nursing homes. Past research has clearly identified relocation as a stressful experience, particularly for those in poor physical health. This study hopes to provide evidence to help healthcare workers make a judgment about who is at greatest risk, so that interventions can be targeted to those most vulnerable.

"Predicting Depression in Relocating Elderly: The Role of Social Support and Perceived Control"

Term of Approval: 1995 - 1996

Funding for Term: $2,341

McGowan, Virginia, University of Lethbridge

How can the aboriginal community help First Nations women with alcohol or drug addictions in their recovery?

This research project will analyze critical events in women's lives and investigate culturally appropriate interventions that can be used in their recovery.

"First Nations Women, Addictions and Recovery"

Term of Approval: 1998 - 2000

Funding for Term: $35,514

Meadows, Lynn, University of Calgary

What everyday factors affect the health of mid-life women?

This study is the second and third stage of an initial study of the perceived health needs of mid-life women. Stage II will broaden the base of the initial study with a more diverse group of women. Stage III will try to find patterns and common threads in data generated from stages II and I.

"WHEALTH: The Alberta Mid-life Women's Health Project, Stages II and III"

Term of Approval: 1998 - 2000

Funding for Term: $69,937

Meadows, Lynn, University of Calgary

How do aboriginal women describe their health-related experiences?

This study will include aboriginal women in the broader based Alberta Midlife Women's Health Study, a multi-stage, multi-phase project designed to describe health-related experiences of women aged 40 to 65.

"Aboriginal Midlife Women and WHEALTH"

Term of Approval: 1999 - 2000

Funding for Term: $42,750

Munro, Brenda, University of Alberta

What health risk factors should be stressed in prevention programs for at-risk teens?

This study will analyze physical (smoking, drinking, drugs) and emotional (depression, anxiety, stress) health risk behaviours in older teens from different ethnic backgrounds. Five thousand Alberta youths will be asked to participate in the research by completing a survey on health behaviours.

"Investigation of Health Risk Behaviours in Ethno-Culturally Diverse Youth"

Term of Approval: 1998 - 2000

Funding for Term: $70,000

Newburn-Cook, Christine, University of Alberta

What causes low birth weight?

Birth weight is an important indicator of infant health and later development. This study will extend the knowledge of the causes of low birth weight.

"A Study of the Determinants of Pre-Term and Term Low Birth Weights in Alberta"

Term of Approval: 1999 - 2000

Funding for Term: $47,500

Newman, Stephen, University of Alberta

Do people with Alzheimer's Disease get depressed more often than those who have vascular dementia caused by a loss of oxygen to the brain?

Depression is more common in the elderly who suffer dementia than in those who don't. This study will follow patients with vascular dementia and AD for a one-year period to find out if patients with vascular dementia get depressed more often than patients with Alzheimer's.

"Longitudinal Study of Depression in Alzheimer's Disease and Vascular Dementia Patients"

Term of Approval: 1998 - 2000

Funding for Term: $35,000

Patten, Scott, University of Calgary

What is the nature of delirium in psychiatric units?

Delirium is regarded as a significant clinical problem in acute-care psychiatric settings, where it is often thought to be a toxic side effect of psychiatric medications. However, the source and progress of delirium has not been investigated from an epidemiological perspective. Upon hospital admission, participants will be assessed for delirium and will be followed throughout their hospital stay. The data will be useful in designing screening and prevention programs.

"The Incidence of Delirium in Acute-Care Psychiatric Units"

Term of Approval: 1995 - 1997

Funding for Term: $5,736

Patten, Scott, University of Calgary

How can the symptoms of depression be prevented?

Depression is a serious public health issue in Canada. This study will test a new technique called interactive voice response telephony to evaluate its effectiveness in identifying the symptoms of depression in a population.

"Prevention of Depression"

Term of Approval: 1999 - 2000

Funding for Term: $34,420

Ray, Lynne, University of Alberta

How does raising a chronically ill child affect the health of family caregivers?

Children with chronic health problems need skilled health and developmental care. This is a role that many family caregivers are not prepared for; nor do they know how to access support. This study will examine the issues facing family caregivers and what must be done to promote and maintain their health.

"Health Promotion for Family Caregivers"

Term of Approval: 1999 - 2000

Funding for Term: $31,157

Roberts, Susan, Jasper Place Gateway Foundation

How do community development practices affect the social health of a community?

This pilot project will assess the impact of a community exploring its human resources.

"Community Development for Population Health"

Term of Approval: 1999 - 2000

Funding for Term: $47,500

Tough, Suzanne, Alberta Cancer Board

How many colorectal patients use alternative medicine therapies?

One in 16 people develops colorectal cancer, and one in 35 dies of the disease. Many choose to treat this disease with non-conventional therapies, including herbal therapy, dietary therapy, physical and psychological therapy, immune boosters, and energy life force therapies. However, the safety and effect of these therapies are currently unknown. This study determines the prevalence of – and the safest ways to use – non-conventional therapies in cancer treatment.

"Non-Conventional Therapy Use Among Patients with Colorectal Cancer."

Term of Approval: 1997 - 1999

Funding for Term: $90,000

Voaklander, Don, Capital Regional Health Authority

Would diabetes information be more effective if delivered to native communities using traditional aboriginal approaches?

Canada's native communities have a high prevalence of non-insulin-dependent diabetes. This study compares the effectiveness of a diabetes education program that combines aboriginal and western approaches with that of a standard diabetes education program.

"Aboriginal Diabetes Program Evaluation"

Term of Approval: 1997 - 1999

Funding for Term: $63,000

West, Malcolm, University of Calgary

How does the aftermath of a stressful event influence depression in women?

This study will explore the link between "problematic attachment," social support, and the onset of depression. The women will be studied for one year following stressful life events.

"A Prospective Study of Anxious Attachment as a Risk Factor for Unipolar Depression in Women"

Term of Approval: 1995 - 1998

Funding for Term: $18,195

Health Policy Research

Health Policy Research refers to an analysis or assessment of a specific health policy. The health policy category was further classified according to the aspect of health care that was involved, including:

- Organization
- Delivery
- Education
- Allocation of resources
- Funding

Bell, Neil, University of Alberta

How can family physicians be encouraged to practice preventive medicine?

A team from the Alberta Primary Care Research Unit is piloting a system to help family physicians counsel patients in preventive health. Patients complete a computer questionnaire and this personal data is integrated into the patients' records to flag opportunities for preventive health counselling. The goal is a reduction in unnecessary deaths.

"Putting Prevention into Practice"

Term of Approval: 1997 - 2000

Funding for Term: $54,765

Bland, Roger, University of Alberta

What is the long-term outcome for people with schizophrenia?

This is a descriptive study of people diagnosed with schizophrenia 30 years ago, when they were initially admitted to hospital for mental illness. This group of patients has been described twice previously, at 10 and 14 years after diagnosis.

"Thirty-year Outcome of First Episode Schizophrenia"

Term of Approval: 1996 - 1998

Funding for Term: $45,000

Crisanti, Annette, University of Calgary

What is the health status of people who were committed to psychiatric care and/or jail?

The study will compare the outcome of involuntary and voluntary patients with respect to subsequent admission to either or both psychiatric inpatient services and the criminal justice system.

"Follow-up study of persons processed under civil commitment legislation and the effect of commitment criteria on rates and characteristics of psychiatric admissions"

Term of Approval: 1995 - 1998

Funding for Term: $5,150

Davies, Dele, Calgary Regional Health Authority

How can the incidence of babies born with Group B Streptococcus disease be reduced?

Group B Streptococcus contracted at birth from the mother is a major cause of serious illness in newborn infants. Davies looks at how clinical practice is changing after the introduction of screening guidelines in 1994. He establishes rates of the disease in Alberta and identifies risk factors that can be changed. He also monitors lab practices to ensure efficient screening tests for pregnant women.

"Impact of Management Guidelines on Neonatal Sepsis"

Term of Approval: 1997 - 1998

Funding for Term: $33,000

Dawe, Ursula, Calgary Regional Health Authority

Can an in-home care program for pregnant women with health problems lower hospital costs and help reduce risks to mother and baby?

This study aims to investigate the effects of in-home care of health problems in pregnant women on mother and baby. The project will also determine whether these women would receive the same or better care in a hospital setting.

"Perinatal Outcomes of Home-Based Antenatal Care for High-Risk Pregnancies"

Term of Approval: 1998 - 2000

Funding for Term: $16,333

Dobbs, Allen, University of Alberta

How accurate is a new fitness-to-drive test for the elderly?

An Edmonton team is developing a new screening test for elderly drivers with dementia. This funding supports further tests with seniors to refine the assessment tool and develop pass/fail standards. The study also determines if the test is useful for elderly individuals who do not have dementia, but are incompetent drivers for other medical reasons.

"Evaluation of a Fitness-to-Drive Assessment Program for Cognitively Impaired Elders"

Term of Approval: 1993 - 1996

Funding for Term: $ 216,397

Dobson, Keith, University of Calgary

Is a school-based program effective for early diagnosis of adolescent depression?

Students aged 14-18 who are at risk for clinical depression will be followed in this study that acts on a 1996 recommendation made by the Health Needs Assessment of the Calgary Regional Health Authority. A novel school-based treatment program is assessed for its success in indicating early signs of depression, as well as problems in other areas of life in adolescents.

"Depression in Adolescence: Evaluation of a Secondary Prevention Strategy"

Term of Approval: 1997 - 2000

Funding for Term: $120,500

Eaton, Philip, Calgary Regional Health Authority (Calgary District Hospital Group)

Is it better for mentally ill people to get day treatment or to be hospitalized?

The study investigates whether day treatment for some acutely ill psychiatric patients is effective, in terms of clinical and social outcomes, and cheaper than more traditional methods of therapy.

"Day Program: A Treatment Alternative"

Term of Approval: 1996 - 1997

Funding for Term: $97,702

Estabrooks, Carole, University of Alberta

How can the results of research be better utilized in health care?

If funded research does not lead to changes in the health of Canadians and the health care system, health care may suffer needlessly. This study examines barriers and gateways to the use of research results among healthcare professionals and policy-makers.

"The Determinants of Research Utilization in an Acute Clinical Setting"

Term of Approval: 1999 - 2000

Funding for Term: $50,000

Farris, Karen, University of Alberta

Can an effective review program be designed and put in place to help seniors control the medications they take?

Seniors consume more prescription and non-prescription drugs and have more complex medication regimens than younger adults. This project aims to identify how a community-based seniors' medication review can be conducted using current resources and personnel within the healthcare system.

"Developing a Medication Review Program via Listen-Dialogue-Action with Seniors and Healthcare Providers"

Term of Approval: 1998 - 2000

Funding for Term: $70,000

Hardin, Philip, Capital Regional Health Authority (Caritas Health Group)

Can diabetes education be delivered effectively in a shorter format?

Ten percent of Canadians aged 45-54 have non-insulin-dependent diabetes, and approximately 20 percent of those aged 65-74 have the disease. Currently, diabetics are educated through an intensive program delivered over 16 hours. This standard is compared with a five and one-half (5.5) hour short-course focusing on individual management of the disease. Comparison is based on follow-up physical and psychological assessments.

"Basic Versus Intensive Diabetes Education: A Randomized, Controlled Trial"

Term of Approval: 1997 - 2000

Funding for Term: $88,000

Hasselback, Paul, Chinook Regional Health Authority

What are the effects of early maternity discharge?

This study aims to evaluate the effect of early maternity discharge on women with uncomplicated pregnancies. The study investigates the differences in feeding practices and re-admission rates for mothers and infants with a hospital stay of less than 48 hours, compared to those who had longer hospital stays following childbirth.

"Feeding Practices and Early Discharge"

Term of Approval: 1997 - 1999

Funding for Term: $20,000

Hasselback, Paul, Calgary Regional Health Authority (Calgary Health Services)

Can a health counselling service used on reserves help urban aboriginals?

Native people living in cities have poorer health status than urban whites or natives living on reserves. This is due to a number of factors, such as stress, isolation from family, unemployment, poverty, and barriers within health care system for preventive and treatment services.

This study tests how cities can benefit from aboriginal healthcare workers trained as Community Health Representatives (CHRs). These CHRs have previously been shown to be helpful in rural areas, but have not been part of urban centres, where aboriginal people often have difficulty accessing and using health care services. Though incomplete, the study has already had an impact on the way health care services are delivered to aboriginal people in Calgary.

"Urban Community Health Representative Evaluation Project"

Term of Approval: 1994 - 1996

Funding for Term: $ 77,947

Hasselback, Paul, Chinook Regional Health Authority

What factors allow seniors to live in their own homes longer?

The demand for home care and reduced family involvement in caring for seniors may have resulted in less support and fewer resources for them and their caregivers. This study will provide an understanding of what enables seniors to continue living in their homes as their level of dependency and need changes.

"Maintaining the Elderly in the Community and Meeting the Needs of Informal Caregivers"

Term of Approval: 1998 - 2000

Funding for Term: $80,000

Higdon, Jodi, Northern Lights Regional Health Authority (Northern Lights Regional Health Services)

Can working with speech and language pathologists in the classroom help children with speech and language delays?

This research project will evaluate two approaches to language improvement. In one approach, children with identified language delays are taken out of the classroom to work with a speech and language pathologist on an individual basis. In the other, a speech and language pathologist works with children within the classroom.

"Evaluating the Effectiveness of Classroom Collaboration"

Term of Approval: 1998 - 2001

Funding for Term: $ 62,436

Holt, Robert, University of Alberta

How does the brain hormone GABA work in situations of drug tolerance and drug withdrawal?

The investigators are studying the mechanisms that may be responsible for the development of tolerance to and withdrawal from the widely prescribed benzodiazepines, common antidepressant drugs. Classical benzodiazepine, which is known to induce both tolerance and withdrawal, is compared to compounds that interact with subtypes of the GABA receptor and do not induce tolerance and withdrawal.

"Molecular Characterization of GABA Receptors: Effects of Chronic Benzodiazepine"

Term of Approval: 1995 - 1998

Funding for Term: $4,900

Jacobs, Philip, University of Alberta

What is the best method of treating infants with severe respiratory disease?

Giving oxygen to babies with severe respiratory disease through an intensive procedure called ECMO reduces mortality, but is very costly. Using nitric oxide before the ECMO procedure helps improve breathing and sometimes eliminates the use of ECMO. The researcher is conducting a cost analysis of NO and of oxygen therapy (both of which can be used with ECMO if necessary), and looking at survivors up to 18 months old using respiratory health and neurodevelopment as outcomes.

"Cost Effectiveness of Nitric Oxide"

Term of Approval: 1996 - 1998

Funding for Term: $29,195

Jarrell, John, University of Calgary

When is it best to perform laparoscopic removal of endometriosis?

Pelvic pain affects many women, and one of its major causes is endometriosis. Traditional treatments sometimes involved removal of all pelvic reproductive organs. This project will evaluate laparoscopic removal of endometriosis – a new procedure to conserve the reproductive organs – and determine its most appropriate use.

"Random Control Laparoscopic Excision of Endometriosis for Control of Pain"

Term of Approval: 1994 - 1995

Funding for Term: $ 25,368

Kirk, Valerie, University of Calgary

Is a portable monitor a good option for diagnosing sleep disorders in children?

Obstructive Sleep Apnea is a common medical disorder affecting two percent of young children. Diagnosis in a sleep lab is often intimidating because numerous electrodes and cables must be taped and glued to the child's skin and scalp. This study will explore whether the portable SnoreSat monitor is a good way to diagnose children with obstructive sleep apnea.

"Validation of the SnoreSat Monitor for the Identification of Obstructive Sleep Apnea in Children"

Term of Approval: 2000-2001

Funding for Term: $90,000

Koning, Cynthia, University of Alberta

How can deficient social perception be measured in children?

One explanation for the difficulties experienced by adolescents with psychiatric illnesses is their inability to receive and decode non-verbal social cues. As a result, they act inappropriately and have difficulty in carrying out normal social interactions. A measure of social perception in children has recently been developed, which the researcher will use to determine if children with Asberger's Syndrome who are deficient in their right hemisphere have deficits in social perception.

"Validation Study of the Child and Adolescent Social Perception Measure"

Term of Approval: 1995 - 1996

Funding for Term: $1,200

Konnert, Candace, University of Calgary

Can a program help treat depression in seniors who have moved to continuing care facilities?

Clinical depression is a major mental health problem, and relocating seniors are clearly at risk for developing depression. This study will evaluate the effectiveness of a program to treat depression in seniors relocating to continuing care facilities.

"Preventing Depression in Relocating Elderly"

Term of Approval: 1999 - 2000

Funding for Term: $40,000

Manyari, Dante, University of Alberta

Can an outpatient program be used to treat patients with congestive heart failure?

Congestive heart failure has emerged as a health problem of epidemic proportions with major economic impact. This study will compare two treatments for patients with congestive heart failure.

"Outpatient Treatment of Decompensated Heart Failure"

Term of Approval: 1999 - 2000

Funding for Term: $47,500

McKinnon, Allison, University of Alberta

What are the outcomes of the new Community Rehabilitation Program?

This study examines and compares how the 17 Alberta regional health authorities deliver rehabilitation services under the new combined program. Assessment will analyze three outcomes: utilization of services, cost, and patient satisfaction.

"Evaluation of the Community Rehabilitation Program"

Term of Approval: 1996 - 2000

Funding for Term: $135,000

Meadows, Lynn, University of Calgary

How do seniors obtain and use healthcare services?

Heart attacks, strokes, and hip fractures are a significant source of illness in seniors. This study will describe the experience of seniors and their caregivers surrounding an acute healthcare event.

"Experience of Alberta Seniors and Their Caregivers Surrounding Acute Health Events"

Term of Approval: 1998 - 2000

Funding for Term: $81,000

Mitchell, Bryan, University of Alberta

How do an expectant mother's health and a doctor's intervention affect the health of an at-risk newborn?

This study will use the MAIN (Morbidity Assessment Index for Newborns) assessment tool to assess how an expectant mother's health condition and the intervention and treatment by a doctor affect the health of a newborn.

"Establishment of Normal Criteria and Use in Health Services Utilization of an Obstetrical Outcome Measure: Morbidity Assessment Index for Newborns"

Term of Approval: 1999 - 2000

Funding for Term: $36,441

Moritz, Ann, University of Lethbridge

What factors affect rehabilitation of injured workers?

This study of the factors affecting self-esteem and general mental health in injured workers who are unable to work will help inform planning for rehabilitation programs.

"Linkages Between Health and Self-Efficacy Among Injured Workers"

Term of Approval: 1995 - 1996

Funding for Term: $1,365

Oliphant, Paul, Calgary Regional Health Authority (Alberta Children's Hospital)

Do boys with hyperactivity also suffer from depression?

This study compares boys recently diagnosed with ADHD with a sample of boys who have no known psychiatric condition. If it can be demonstrated that a significant proportion of youngsters who receive a diagnosis of ADHD also show evidence of depression, there would be significant treatment implications.

"Association between Depression and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder"

Term of Approval: 1995 - 1996

Funding for Term: $779

Olley, Peter M., University of Alberta

Can Edmonton emergency departments use a standardized approach to better manage severe asthma attacks in children?

Asthma is the primary reason for admission to hospital for children ages six to 12. Though asthma is on the increase and is very expensive to manage, it is often inadequately treated, and admission rates vary enormously in emergency departments throughout Alberta. The goal of this study is to standardize management of children who arrive at Edmonton hospital emergency departments with acute asthma attacks.

"The Edmonton Asthma Management Study"

Term of Approval: 1994 - 1996

Funding for Term: $75,838

Panich, Darrell, University of Alberta

Is there a connection between hyperactivity and left-handedness?

This study will look at the potential connection between ADHD and left-handedness, caused by asymmetries in the basal ganglia. ADHD patients will be tested to determine if a strong correlation exists between ADHD and handedness. The study involves subjects from a local ADHD support group.

"Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Laterality"

Term of Approval: 1995 - 1997

Funding for Term: $4,400

Rose, Linda, University of Calgary

Does deep breathing during asthma attacks affect the duration of the attack?

This study will investigate whether thoracic breathing and heightened chest muscle activity affect labored breathing and asthma-related panic anxiety that children experience during asthma attacks. Presence of such activity may influence the duration of ongoing asthma attacks.

"Panic-fear and Dyspnea in Asthmatic Children."

Term of Approval: 1995 - 1996

Funding for Term: $1,400

Ross-Kerr, Janet C., University of Alberta

How can seniors who live in assisted housing be helped to maintain their good health and independence?

This project will evaluate the impact of a health promotion program on the health and well-being of seniors in urban, subsidized apartment housing. This group of seniors is one that may be at risk for developing health problems and for losing independence, since their resources are limited and most have already taken a step toward a more sheltered form of housing by moving into a seniors' apartment complex.

"Assisted Living in Vulnerable Adults"

Term of Approval: 1998 - 2000

Funding for Term: $80,000

Saunders, Duncan, University of Alberta

What factors contribute to long wait times in hospital emergency rooms in Edmonton?

This study will investigate alternatives to reduce waiting times and patient demand in emergency rooms in the Capital Regional Health Authority

"Understanding Factors that Contribute to Increased Service Pressures in Emergency Departments in a Major Health Region"

Term of Approval: 1999 - 2000

Funding for Term: $50,000

Saunders, Duncan, University of Alberta

Have hospital use rates and the health status of discharged patients changed with the restructuring in Alberta health services?

The researchers will assess whether the restructuring of health services in Alberta has affected the rate of hospital use and whether there are changes in complication and mortality rates among discharged patients. The study will show the success of current health care policies to reduce hospitalization.

"Hospitalization Trends and Variations"

Term of Approval: 1997 - 1999

Funding for Term: $49,534

Singhal, Nalini, University of Calgary

How effective are standard procedures used by southern Alberta hospitals to resuscitate newborns?

The project assesses the standard procedure used in southern Alberta hospitals to resuscitate newborns. The goal is to see how effective these procedures are clinically and if they need improvement. Researchers also plan to collect data using interactive voice response, and measure its effectiveness over traditional medical charting of care.

"Teaching Resuscitation: Is it Effective?"

Term of Approval: 1994 - 1996

Funding for Term: $ 9,415

Stewart, Miriam J., University of Alberta

Is the telephone an effective way to offer support to family caregivers of seriously ill seniors?

This study will evaluate the effectiveness of using a telephone support system to assist family caregivers of seniors who have suffered a stroke or who have Alzheimer's Disease.

"Support for Family Caregivers of Seniors with Chronic Conditions"

Term of Approval: 1998 - 2000

Funding for Term: $80,000

Stuart, Gavin C., Tom Baker Cancer Centre (Calgary)

Would a province-wide cervical cancer screening help increase early detection of the disease?

Alberta does not have a formal screening program for cancer of the cervix, which is manageable if detected early enough. Dr. Stuart is piloting a screening program in Red Deer and Grande Prairie to see if an increase in detection of this disease warrants using further resources province-wide.

"Proposal for a Screening Program in Alberta for Women with Cancer of the Cervix"

Term of Approval: 1996 - 1997

Funding for Term: $79,721

Sutherland, Lloyd R., University of Calgary

Why is endoscopy performed on patients with gastrointestinal problems?

The researchers will examine how endoscopy is used in four Alberta hospitals and develop a data bank of the resulting endoscopic procedures. This study is the first to use Canadian data to examine why endoscopy is performed. The data will be used to establish guidelines for endoscopy.

"Alberta Endoscopy Project"

Term of Approval: 1993 - 1996

Funding for Term: $240,072

Tanay, Veronique, University of Alberta

How do antidepressant and antianxiety drugs affect the important brain hormone GABA?

This study examines how various antidepressant and anti-anxiety drugs affect a brain hormone called GABA. It may help explain why various drugs must be taken for a long time before they produce the desired effects.

"The Action of Antidepressant-Antipanic Drugs on GABA Receptor-Specific MMA"

Term of Approval: 1995 - 1998

Funding for Term: $5,150

Urichuk, Liana, University of Alberta

Does the drug, Prozac interact with the other drugs in combination therapy?

Although fluoxetine (Prozac) is a relatively safe drug with few side effects, researchers suspect it interacts with other drugs used in combination therapy. This study examines drug interactions.

"Drug Interactions in Depressed Patients: Studies with Fluoxetine and Desipramine"

Term of Approval: 1995 - 1997

Funding for Term: $1,450

Van Rosendaal, Guido, University of Calgary

What ethical guidelines can be used for prolonging life with feeding tubes?

Many severely ill people with major disabilities eat through feeding tubes. In many cases, this ensures long-term survival. Endoscopists often function as technicians when helping people make decisions about putting someone on tube feeding. This study hopes to bring out the emotional and ethical concerns of prolonging life in this way, and to develop ethical guidelines for use in these medical situations.

"Percutaneous Endoscopic Gastrotomy"

Term of Approval: 1995 - 1997

Funding for Term: $54,700

Warnock, Garth L., University of Alberta

How effectively do islet transplants help to manage diabetes in young adults who have kidney transplants?

The project studies the outcomes of islet cell transplant therapy in young adults with Type I diabetes. The study was confined to those who have had a kidney transplant to see if islet transplants alone can sustain normal levels of blood sugar. The researchers will compare success rates of diabetes management between a group of islet transplant patients and a group that receives insulin therapy. The goal is to prevent diabetic complications by using islet transplant therapy early.

"Islet Transplantation in Diabetes"

Term of Approval: 1997 - 1998

Funding for Term: $ 27,200

Whitelaw, William W., University of Calgary

Can treating sleep breathing disorders in seniors improve their overall health?

This study will assess whether treating sleep breathing disorders with oxygen in seniors with heart and lung diseases improves their overall health.

"Oxygen to Improve Health of Seniors with Sleep Disorder Breathing"

Term of Approval: 1998 - 2000

Funding for Term: $80,000

2.5 AHFMR Opportunity Fund Projects

Adair, Carol, Alberta Mental Health Board

Would service integration and continuity of care for individuals with severe or persistent mental illness result in better health and economic outcomes?

There is little evidence available to decision-makers that Continuity of Care (COC), a broad service context, improves patient outcomes, primarily because COC has not been systematically measured. This research program is focused on producing evidence on the effectiveness of health services for persons suffering from severe and persistent mental illness, with a focus on service integration, continuity of care, and clinical and economic outcomes. Co-sponsors include the Provincial Mental Health Advisory Board, Institute of Pharmaco-Economics, David Thompson Health Region, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Eli-Lilly Pharmaceuticals.

"Service Delivery Patterns of Persons with Severe and Persistent Mental Illness: Continuity of Care, Clinical and Economic Outcomes"

Term of Approval: 1999-2000

Funding for Term: $30,325

Donaldson, Cameron, University of Calgary

Would a framework for Program Budgeting and Marginal Analysis (PBMA) help health regions to set priorities and meet regional needs?

A major task of health regions in Canada is to meet the maximum amount of need in their designated population with available budgets. The focus of this project is to develop PBMA to aid priority setting in health regions and to assess the impact on decision-making of PBMA in the regional setting. The Canadian Health Services Research Foundation acted as a co-sponsor for this project.

"Priority Setting within a Regional Funding Envelope: The Use of Program Budgeting and Marginal Analysis"

Term of Approval: 1999-2000

Funding for Term: $67,400

Hasselback, Paul, Chinook Regional Health Authority

Would the integration of primary care programs improve the quality of health care and health outcomes and reduce health care costs?

The health care system in Alberta is facing a number of challenges, including changing population demographics, rapid advances in technology, expensive drug regimes, and ever-increasing patient expectations. The purpose of this research is to develop an integrated primary care program with new delivery systems that integrate many services, involve key health service professionals, and improve accountability to the public. The research will take place in the Taber community of the Chinook Regional Health Authority.

"Evaluation of an Integrated Primary Care Demonstration Project"

Term of Approval: 1999-2000

Funding for Term: $30,000

Hayward, Robert, University of Alberta

Will the evolution of health informatics result in improved decision-making and improved health outcomes?

These are times of great expectation for health informatics. Decision-makers in health care want improved, timely access to high quality health information. This project aims to build a "Centre for Health Evidence" which will promote a culture of evidence-based decision-making by developing an essential infrastructure for health informatics and supporting clinician, policy-maker and researcher education about evidence-based decision-making through point-of-care training programs in health informatics.

"Centres for Health Evidence (CHE)"

Term of Approval: 1998-2000

Funding for Term: $168,700

Stewart, Miriam J., University of Alberta

What factors influence how and when low-income consumers access health services?

The purpose of this study is to explore and describe low-income consumers' perspectives on patterns and determinants of health services use and to recommend changes for policies and services. Interview probes will be used to gather information on a range of services in health and health-related sectors. This information will have implications for managers and policy-makers within and outside the health system.

"Low-Income Consumers' Perspective on Determinants of Health Services Use"

Term of Approval: 1998-2000

Funding for Term: $40,000

SEARCH Projects

SEARCH projects do not receive direct funding from AHFMR. Participants must secure the funding for their projects from other sources, e.g. their sponsoring organization or another funding source. AHFMR provides support to participants and their organizations in the form of training and education, information technology and network, travel and meetings, faculty mentors and advisors; therefore, a dollar figure is not included for the projects. Each participant undertakes at least one project relevant to their local needs (an individual project) and one project addressing a cross-region issue (group project). Some participants are involved in numerous additional projects. This listing is based on up to two individual projects initiated by each SEARCH participant during the two-year program. Ongoing work has often developed these projects further. The list includes all group projects. The start date indicates the date of the SEARCH Program during which the project was undertaken. Although the research teams may involve other collaborators and investigators, please note that only the SEARCH participants have been indicated. The participant's affiliation is cited for the time of initiation of the project.

Individual Projects

Belton, Kathy L., Alberta Centre for Injury Control and Research

How do southern Alberta residents perceive traffic safety and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police?

Law enforcement around traffic safety is important in injury prevention. This study contributes to the development and implementation of a pilot program to enhance service delivery for traffic within K division of the RCMP. It involves a telephone survey of 800 southern Alberta residents, questioning them about issues such as work patterns, enforcement practices, use of discretion, effectiveness of sanctions, and knowledge level.

"Southern Alberta Residents' Perceptions of Traffic Safety and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police"

Project Start: SEARCH 1998

Boechler, Vickie, Capital Health Authority

What are the effects of an asthma education program on elementary school children's asthma management, quality of life, and school attendance?

The project involves a randomized control trial of the Roaring Adventures of Puff (RAP) asthma education program, which was carried out in 26 elementary schools in the Edmonton and St. Albert area. It assesses self-management behaviour, quality of life, school absenteeism, and healthcare utilization.

"Evaluation of an Asthma Education Program for School Children with Asthma"

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Boechler, Vickie, Capital Health Authority

What do patients using Sturgeon Community Hospital and Health Centre know about personal directives (or Living Wills)?

The study evaluates the Personal Directives Pilot Project at three and six months, surveying patients using services about their knowledge of living wills and identifying needs for consumer and health professional education.

"Evaluation of the Personal Directives Pilot Project at the Sturgeon Community Hospital and Health Centre"

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Brockway, Pamela, Keeweetinok Lakes Regional Health Authority

What do community members identify as their health needs and priorities?

The purpose of this project is to assess the community's health issues, priorities, strengths and weaknesses through focus groups and a door-to-door survey to further explore community needs and priorities.

"Community Health Assessment, Keeweetinok Lakes Region"

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Brockway, Pamela, Keeweetinok Lakes Regional Health Authority

Is the use of tele-health improving service delivery, reducing costs, and providing economic opportunity?

Keeweetinok Lakes Regional Health Authority identified goals within its tele-health business plan, including improving the overall health delivery system, improving access, providing equitable service, enhancing health education/promotion programs, reducing patient costs, and improving economic opportunities. This project evaluates the achievement of those goals for five tele-health applications using operational logs, utilization data, and satisfaction surveys over a six-month period.

"Tele-health Technology Assessment"

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Bulloch, Sally, Headwaters Regional Health Authority

What is the relationship between the needs and the resources in rehabilitation for the region, and what are the issues that influence this relationship?

The purpose of the project is to gather information about needs, resources, and performance of the Community Rehabilitation Program. This information assists the CRP Indicators Committee in developing their plan for providing rehabilitation services.

"HHA Community Rehabilitation Program Descriptive Report"

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Buller, Lucy, Mistahia Regional Health Authority

Does a strengthening regime that includes anti-gravity muscle groups decrease injury hospitalizations due to falls in home care clients?

This quasi-experimental study uses the Risk Assessment Tool for Falls to identify clients between 65 and 84 years who are most at risk for falling. Those having the most risk factors are referred to a physical therapist for a strength assessment and participation in a strengthening program. The number of falls is logged during the study period to determine the incidence among program participants.

"Home Care Physio: Strengthening Study"

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Buller, Lucy, Mistahia Regional Health Authority

How effective are rehabilitation services in improving health and quality of life outcomes?

This project uses admissions database, patient self-reporting, and health records, to assess the effects of a rehabilitation unit on physical function, pain, general health, social function, mental health, and communications. The study compares subjective improvement with improvements in balance and mobility is made to refine services delivery and improve practice.

"Health Outcomes for Rehab Patients"

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Bursey, Robin, East Central Regional Health Authority

What is the public's perception, knowledge, and attitude about traffic safety issues?

The first step in reducing traffic violations and collisions is to determine what the targeted population knows and thinks about traffic safety. This telephone survey of a random sample of East Central residents examines their attitudes and views on a range of traffic safety issues, including importance of road safety, contributors to collisions, and possible preventive strategies.

"Traffic Safety Issues in East Central RHA 7: Public Perception, Knowledge and Attitudes"

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Bursey, Robin, East Central Regional Health Authority

What is the impact of a fall prevention program on seniors and their risk of falling?

This project evaluates the effectiveness of Steady As You Go (SAYGo), an education and training program aimed at helping healthy seniors decrease their risks for falling. It follows a treatment and control group monthly for one year and assesses for changes in knowledge and awareness, risk for falls, and actual falls. Their participation and willingness to facilitate the program are also assessed.

"Steady As You Go: For Health Community-Dwelling Seniors"

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Ceilin, Vivian, Headwaters Regional Health Authority

What are the health needs, issues, and resources in Headwaters Regional Health Authority?

This project measures the health of the population of the Headwaters Regional Health Authority, including a Regional and Community Profile and a Community Capacity Assessment. The results of the assessment provide decision-makers with information about the best use of resources based on outcome measures of health, illness, and disease.

"Headwaters Regional Health Authority Health Assessment"

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Clelland, Steven, Alberta Mental Health Board

Can a nurse practitioner improve access to care for children and adolescents in rural Alberta who are experiencing mental health problems?

This pilot project addresses concerns about access to child psychiatry services in Regional Health Authorities 5 through 9, by enhancing mental health services by providing access to a nurse- practitioner. To assess the impact of this change, the project surveys children's therapists and parent/guardians of children accessing services in these regions.

"Children's Mental Health Services Enhancement Project: An Evaluation of a Nurse Practitioner Pilot Project in Rural Alberta"

Project Start: SEARCH 1998

Davidson, Muriel, Keeweetinok Lakes Regional Health Authority

Does computer-aided instruction provide general orientation to staff of a rural northern RHA effectively and as cost-efficiently as group orientation?

Computer-aided instruction (CAI) was used to provide general orientation to staff of a rural northern Regional Health Authority. This study evaluates two aspects of CAI: (1) What is the increase in the knowledge for staff using it? and (2) Are the costs less than the three-days-per-year method of group orientation previously used?

"Computer-Aided Instruction for General Staff Orientation in Rural Northern Health Region"

Project Start: SEARCH 1998

Dedrick, Angie, Capital Regional Health Authority

How can community development practice be improved in the Capital Health Region?

The purpose of the project is to reflect on the "Community Capacity Building and Asset Mapping" model and, specifically, on the "Steps to Capacity Success." A qualitative method is used to reflect on the experience of communities in terms of starting the initiative, finding and mobilizing assets, sustaining community building, the role of service providers, and funding.

"From Model to Reality – Community Capacity Building and Asset Mapping – Listen and Learn...the Answers are With Communities!"

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Deis, Kelly, Aspen Regional Health Authority

How do consumers perceive the quality and outcomes of physical therapy services in Aspen RHA?

This consumer satisfaction study is part of a larger study of costs, utilization, and consumer satisfaction with physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech language services since the inception of CRP funding in1995. The study looks at waiting times, outcomes, access, and satisfaction with physical therapy services.

"Physical Therapy Services Study (Aspen Regional Health Authority)"

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Deis, Kelly, Aspen Regional Health Authority

What contributes to employee health in a health authority?

To gather information to form the basis of a three-year work plan on employee health, this project surveys staff of the Aspen Regional Health Authority to determine factors that influence their health.

"Workplace Wellness Survey (Aspen Regional Health Authority)"

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Doze, Sandra, Crossroads Regional Health Authority

What are the risk factors for multiple falls among clients admitted to the home care program?

Falls are an important cause of injury and health service use among the elderly. This retrospective audit of fall risk assessments of long-term care clients in Crossroads Region, Wetaskiwin Office, home care program examines factors associated with the risk of falling, and highlights the importance of multiple medication and decreased strength.

"Correlation of Identified Risk Factors and Repeated Falls"

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Doze, Sandra, Crossroads Regional Health Authority

How is continuing care placement and single point of entry managed in Alberta's health regions?

Part of an evaluation of the Crossroads Health Region Placement Service, this project involves a survey of continuing care placement coordinators across the province to gather information about examining processes, policies, type and number of facilities, placements options, placement priorities, staffing, and waitlists.

"Survey of Continuing Care Placement in Alberta"

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Farrell, Kathy, Palliser Regional Health Authority

What would make the work environment of health care staff more health promoting?

The purpose of this project is to determine how to promote workplace wellness in the Palliser Regional Health Authority. Data collected through focus group discussions with staff in three regional sites is used to identify themes of supports and barriers to workplace wellness.

"Staff Wellness/Health Promotion Pilot Project"

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Gorsche, Ron, Headwaters Regional Health Authority, Alberta Family Practice Research Network

How does a labour dispute affect health services utilization by meat packers?

This study determines changes in work-related health services utilization before and after a three-week labour dispute involving meat packers. It includes a retrospective evaluation of workers compensation injuries four months before and after a three-week strike, as well as an examination of factors such as age, months worked prior to injury, the line speed, and the weekly turnover of employees.

"Work-Related Health Services Utilization Before and After a Three-Week Labour Dispute Involving Meat Packers"

Project Start: SEARCH 1998

Halbert, Tracy, Calgary Regional Health Authority

Do women who receive in-home antenatal care for complications of pregnancy have better outcomes?

The Antenatal Home Care Program provides a more integrated continuum of care for childbearing families experiencing high-risk complications of pregnancy. This multi-site randomized trial compares pregnancy and birth outcomes among women receiving care through an organized program of in-home care with women receiving the current standard of in-hospital care. Costs, satisfaction, and experience of anxiety and depression are also assessed.

"Perinatal Outcomes of In-Home Antenatal Care for High Risk Pregnancies"

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Halbert, Tracy, Calgary Regional Health Authority

What are the volumes and types of individual student referrals received by nurses assigned to schools in Calgary?

Over 30,000 student contacts with school nurses were documented in a school year in Calgary. This study examines both the volume and type of contact, as well as the sources and reason for the referrals, using a longitudinal survey of school nursing documentation logs over two academic years in schools within Calgary Regional Health Authority. The study supports the partnership of health and education.

"Individual Student Health Referrals to School Nurses Assigned to Schools within the Calgary Regional Health Authority"

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Jensen-Ross, Christine, Chinook Regional Health Authority

Yanicki, Sharon, Chinook Regional Health Authority

What are the factors affecting infant feeding and readmission in the first year after birth?

The purpose of this study is to determine factors that affect readmission rates of full-term, single birth infants, including feeding practices of infants, early discharge, antepartum risk score, and socioeconomic status. Data are derived from a chart audit of hospital records and five clinical and administrative databases.

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Jensen-Ross, Christine, Chinook Regional Health Authority

How satisfied are clients with upper endoscopy practices, and how do these relate to gold standard care?

The purpose of this study is to describe the current practice of upper endoscopy at the Lethbridge Regional Hospital, to examine how this practice rates in relation to the standard set by the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology, and to determine patient satisfaction with the service. Data collection is qualitative and quantitative and includes surveys related to the facility, the procedure, and client satisfaction, as well as lab reports of biopsy data.

"Upper Endoscopy Study (Lethbridge Regional Hospital)"

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Kluthe, Jan, Northern Lights Regional Health Authority

What do Northern Lights RHA health providers know about health promotion, disease and injury prevention?

The purpose of the project is to conduct a survey of all health providers at Northern Lights Regional Health Services to obtain information regarding their knowledge and application of health promotion, disease and injury prevention in their work within the region.

"Health Providers Knowledge of Health Promotion, Disease and Injury Prevention"

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Kluthe, Jan, Northern Lights Regional Health Authority

How can injuries leading to health services utilization be prevented?

To reduce the use of Northern Lights Regional Health Authority services because of preventable injuries, this project analyzes data related to ambulatory and in-patient visits, and develops recommendations for an injury prevention program. Data include Ambulatory Care Classification System data on injury visits to the emergency department, as well as inpatient hospitalization data on injuries.

"Injury Analysis (Northern Lights Regional Health Authority)"

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Marini, Sandra, Keeweetinok Lakes Regional Health Authority

Brockway, Pamela, Keeweetinok Lakes Regional Health Authority

What leads to the under-immunization of children, and can a new strategy improve immunization rates?

The purpose of the study is to determine the client characteristics and perceived barriers that are associated with non-adherence to immunization schedules. The study also examines the impact of an immunization refusal strategy on subsequent adherence at the twelve-month, eighteen-month, and pre-school visit.

"Client Characteristics and Perceived Barriers for Non-Adherence to Immunization Schedules and Impact of an Immunization Refusal Strategy"

Project Start: SEARCH 1998

Marini, Sandra, Alberta Motor Association

How is traffic speed managed by Alberta municipalities?

Traffic speed is an important factor in motor vehicle accidents and injuries. This project was initiated by The Provincial Speed Management Engineering Working Group. It uses a questionnaire survey to investigate acceptance and usage of the engineering, signage, enforcement, and public education for managing speed in all municipalities in Alberta.

"Acceptance and Usage of the Broad Strategies (Engineering, Signage, Enforcement, Public Education) for Managing Speed in all Municipalities in Alberta"

Project Start: SEARCH 1998

McAllister, Celeste, David Thompson Regional Health Authority

Can partner notification rates be used to identify populations at high risk for sexually transmitted diseases?

This study examines the effectiveness of an alternative approach to identify populations at high risk for contracting sexually transmitted diseases. It identifies communities at risk by comparing partner notification rates, then designs appropriate interventions.

Project Start: SEARCH 1998

Nguyen, Thu-Ha, Alberta Health

What is the pattern of occurrence of three gastrointestinal infections in Alberta, how complete is reporting of them, and does this match with diagnosis rates?

Using records from various sources, this study examines the temporal and spatial trends, the completeness of reported cases by health regions and hospitals, and the overall practice pattern in diagnosis of Giardia, Cryptosporidium, and Campylobacter.

"Reported Cases of Giardia, Cryptosporidium, and Campylobacter in Three Administrative Databases, Alberta, Canada"

Project Start: SEARCH 1998

Nichols, Jean-Ann, Alberta Mental Health Board

Can a specialized classroom for children and adolescents with complex psychiatric needs and behaviour problems increase their success?

The Morningside Classroom was developed in response to awareness that certain students with mental health problems do not experience success within the traditional school setting. This study evaluates the program based on the outcomes of students social skills, behaviour, academic achievement, attendance and satisfaction, as well as parent satisfaction, staff development, and school involvement.

"Morningside Classroom Evaluation Project"

Project Start: SEARCH 1998

Normandin, Georgina, Calgary Regional Health Authority

Can we predict which people coming to a travel clinic for immunizations are likely to be already immune to Hepatitis A?

This study identifies the percentage of clients attending the Calgary Regional Health Authority Downtown Travel Clinic who are already sero-positive for antibodies to HAV, and identifies the patterns of HAV immunity by age, geographic region of origin, and history of illness.

"A Sero-Prevalence Study of Hepatitis A Immunity"

Project Start: SEARCH 1998

O'Beirne, Maeve, Calgary Regional Health Authority and Alberta Family Practice Research Network

Why do pregnant women and their health care providers not talk about the use of complementary therapies in pregnancy?

Pregnant women often use complementary therapies without discussing them with their health care provider. Through focus groups of providers and patients, this study determines the barriers and facilitators to communication between women and health care professionals about the use of complementary therapies.

"The Use of Complementary Therapies During Pregnancy"

Project Start. SEARCH 1998

Parks, Pat, Northern Lights Regional Health Authority

What services are needed and available for women at risk for post-natal depression?

This project consists of two phases. Phase one uses the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale to determine the number of women in the Northern Lights Health Region at risk for/or with Postnatal Depression. Phase two evaluates the programs and services available to women at risk, introduces new programs, or enhances existing programs.

"Northern Lights Postnatal Depression Initiative"

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Parks, Pat, Northern Lights Regional Health Authority

Kluthe, Jan, Northern Lights Regional Health Authority

What is the community's overall health status, health service needs and ability to respond to those needs?

This project uses the guidance of a steering group of community leaders, health professionals, and university consultants, to complete a comprehensive assessment of the full spectrum of health needs among an entire population in the Northern Lights region. A wide range of data sources provide a health profile of the community, including a survey of residents to identify health needs, a survey of health providers to identify services, and interviews with key informants.

"Northern Lights Regional Health Needs Assessment"

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Patterson, Eileen, Chinook Regional Health Authority

How can 'well-baby' services provided by public health nurses and physicians be better integrated?

The basic question of this study is how and why efforts at integrating the 'well-baby' services of physicians and public health nurses either succeed or fail. A case study of the Taber primary care integration group examines the important features and relationships that support integration.

"Case Study of 'Well-Baby' Integration Process"

Project Start: SEARCH 1998

Penman, Yvette, Headwaters Regional Health Authority

What are the risk behaviours, education needs, and barriers to service related to HIV prevention among youth in the communities of Bow Valley?

Responding to community concerns, this study uses focus groups and a survey of 15 to 29-year-olds to assess health risk behaviours and needs for education and support, as well as barriers to existing services for at-risk youth, and to determine the possible need for a needle exchange program.

"Bow Valley HIV Prevention Study"

Project Start: SEARCH 1998

Plowman, Diane, Peace Regional Health Authority

What staff education and information management practices are needed to implement a nursing workload measurement tool?

In order to provide better information for decision-making about nursing staff, this project examines the processes and infrastructure needed to implement a tool to measure nursing workload in the Peace Regional Health Authority.

"Implementation and Evaluation of Nursing Workload Measurement in the Peace Regional Health Authority

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Plowman, Diane, Peace Regional Health Authority

How do residents and health care workers see the health needs of the community and rate the health care system?

To inform business planning for the health region, this comprehensive needs assessment of Peace Regional Health Authority uses a telephone survey, face-to-face interviews, and written surveys to ask community residents, health region employees, medical staff and volunteers and other partners about the health care needs of residents. The researcher also rates the healthcare system.

"Peace Regional Health Authority Needs Assessment"

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Richen, Dan, Regional Health Authority No.5

Which handwashing disinfectant is most effective?

To inform decision-making about the use of disinfectants for handwashing in washrooms in long-term care facilities, this comprehensive review of the literature looks at studies of the effectiveness and acceptability of chlorhexidine gluconate and isopropyl alcohol, as well as comparisons with common soap.

" A Comparison of the Effectiveness of Two Handwashing Disinfectants"

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Richen, Dan, Regional Health Authority No.5

Is it appropriate use of staff time to visit home care clients to measure blood pressure?

In order to inform decisions about the use of home visits for blood pressure monitoring, this study examines published research indicating the benefits of home blood pressure monitoring, possible alternatives for blood pressure monitoring, and other interventions.

"Assessment of the Home Monitoring of Client Blood Pressure by Home Care Staff"

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Simpson, Jennifer, Alberta Mental Health Board

Does a psychogeriatric program continue to function in a similar way when transferred from a psychiatric hospital to community clinics?

Programs transferred to the community from institutions are often subject to "program drift" – a shift away from the program's original intent. This evaluation tests whether the transfer of eight staff members from Alberta Hospital Ponoka to the community clinic system in five regional health authorities continues to serve similar clients, provide similar services and result in similar program outcomes, when providing specialized pyschogeriatric assessments.

"Evaluation of Transfer of the Psychogeriatric Program Community Outreach Service from Alberta Hospital Ponoka to the Central Area Community Clinic System"

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Simpson, Jennifer, Alberta Mental Health Board

Does the Assertive Outreach Program effectively assess people with severe or persistent mental illness to maintain a reasonable quality of life?

The mandate of the Assertive Outreach Program is to provide a continuum of flexible community-based support to patients with severe mental illness and assist them to maintain quality of life in their own communities. Through the use of measures of client satisfaction, quality of life and role functioning, this project evaluates the extent to which the program fulfils its goals.

"Evaluation of the Assertive Outreach Program in David Thompson Regional Health Authority

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Sinclair, Allan, Lakeland Regional Health Authority

Which sources of nutrition education are most trusted, and do these have greater influence on food choice?

Nutrition is related to five of the top ten causes of death in Canada. This project examines the relative trustworthiness of various sources of nutrition information, as perceived by Alberta's residents. Focus groups are used to inform survey design, and food choices are examined in relation to a number of factors, including use of 'authoritative' nutrition information.

"Level of Trust and Influence of National Food Guidelines and Other Common Nutrition Education Sources"

Project Start: SEARCH 1998

Smith, Neale, David Thompson Regional Health Authority

What can be learned about successful processes and potential outcomes from community health promotion grant strategies across Alberta's health regions?

This study uses qualitative methods to identify common themes in the way four health authorities work with communities in health promotion grants programs. Processes and outcomes are examined to help identify "best practices" for community grant strategies that can be adopted and implemented by RHAs and other funders of community groups.

"A Comparative Study of Action for Health Community Grants in Alberta's RHAs"

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Spelten, Darlene, Lakeland Regional Health Authority

How does the public want to participate in healthcare decision-making?

This project asks community representatives in the rural Lakeland health region how and at what level they would like to be involved in decisions about health care, and identifies the groups of citizens that should form decision-making bodies.

"Public Participation in a Rural Health Region in Alberta"

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Stasiuk, Sonya, Lakeland Regional Health Authority

What is the best way to assess client satisfaction with services?

Working closely with service providers, this project designs a client satisfaction process that is focused on access to services, quality of care, and outcome of interventions. The process will identify the principles by which all future surveys for client satisfaction will be conducted.

"Survey (Lakeland Regional Health Authority)"

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Van Dijk, Marlies, Calgary Regional Health Authority

Penman, Yvette, Headwaters Regional Health Authority

Can a tool based on the dimensions of primary health care effectively measure client satisfaction in an inner-city health center?

The purpose of this project is twofold: – 1) to design and develop a self-report tool to assess client satisfaction with health services at an inner city health centre, and 2) to pilot, implement, and evaluate the tool. Multiple methodologies are used to develop the tool, including document review, focus groups, and consultation with key stakeholders.

"A Self-Report Tool to Assess Client Satisfaction in an Inner-City Health Centre"

Project Start: SEARCH 1998

Wedel, Robert, Chinook Regional Health Authority and Alberta Family Practice Research Network

How does where you live influence where you die?

Inequities in access and fragmentation of services are concerns for rural populations. This study identifies the care settings in which cancer deaths are occurring in a rural health region in Alberta, and also looks at the attitudes and preferences of rural patients around care settings at the time of death.

"Rural Palliative Care: How Does Where You Live Influence Where You Die?"

Project Start: SEARCH 1998

Whitridge, Monica, Calgary Regional Health Authority

Is a new risk indicator tool reliable for supporting priorization of clients for permanent placement, or developing a plan of care in the community?

This project examines the implementation of the Risk Indicator Tool across service areas on Calgary Regional Health Authority Home Care. It determines the reliability of the tool when used at different times and by different providers, together with its ability to distinguish between types of clients receiving home care services.

"Risk Indicator Tool Implementation Project – Phase I"

Project Start: SEARCH 1998

Yanicki, Sharon, Chinook Regional Health Authority

Jensen-Ross, Christine, Chinook Regional Health Authority

What are the health issues identified by residents, community leaders and professionals of a low-income area of North Lethbridge?

This study collects information about social and economic environment, physical environment, personal health practices, individual capacity and coping, and health services, in order to identify the priority issues and potential solutions for a North Lethbridge community. Through interviews and reviews of demographics and administrative data, residents, community leaders, and professionals identify issues and solutions.

"Community Needs Assessment of North Lethbridge"

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Yanicki, Sharon, Chinook Regional Health Authority

What is the level of client satisfaction and sense of personal control during the perinatal period while receiving services from the Chinook Health Region?

Working with the full spectrum of service providers during the perinatal period, a questionnaire was developed and administered to women following discharge after childbirth. Both qualitative and quantitative methods are used to examine satisfaction with various service elements, and areas for change or enhancement of service.

"Perinatal Satisfaction Survey"

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Group Projects

Belton, Kathy L., Alberta Centre for Injury Control and Research/RCMP

Marini, Sandra, Program Coordinator, Alberta Motor Association

What are the standards and variations in practices in emergency medical services in Alberta's 17 regional health authorities?

Traumatic injuries are the leading cause of death for Canadians between one and 44 years of age. A trauma care system is the first stop for most of the injured people in Alberta. This research project investigates the standards and practices in emergency medical services in Alberta's 17 regional health authorities and compares rural, rural/urban, and urban settings.

"Investigation of the Standards and Practices in Emergency Medical Services in the Seventeen Health Authorities in Alberta"

Project Start: SEARCH 1998

Clelland, Steven, Alberta Mental Health Board

Nichols, Jean-Ann, Alberta Mental Health Board

Myhre, Teri, Chinook Regional Health Authority

Can the Global Assessment of Functioning Scale (GAF) be used to compare ratings on admission and discharge as a meaningful measure of outcome in mental health services?

This project aims to enhance understanding of the GAF through examining its use as a routine measure of patient outcomes. The study also aims to identify any relationships between the GAF and a variety of other factors, including gender, age, length of stay, diagnosis, site/unit/service type, and re-admissions.

"The Utility of the Global Assessment of Functioning Scale (GAF) as an Outcome Measure for Persons with Severe or Persistent Mental Illness"

Project Start: SEARCH 1998

Clelland, Steven, Alberta Mental Health Board

O'Beirne, Maeve, Calgary Regional Health Authority, Alberta Family Practice Research Network

Simpson, Jennifer, Alberta Mental Health Board

How do family physicians access Child Mental Health Services in Regions 5-9?

The purpose of this study is to determine family physicians' perceptions of access to mental health services in rural Alberta. It uses a questionnaire to examine the referral patterns, waiting times, and communication of non-specialist physicians in Regions 5-9.

"Access to Child Mental Health Services as Perceived by Family Physicians in Regions 5-9"

Project Start: SEARCH 1998

Deis, Kelly, Aspen Regional Health Authority

Simpson, Jennifer, Alberta Mental Health Board

What personal strengths and community supports do informal caregivers access?

The purpose of this descriptive study of informal caregivers in rural Alberta is to support them by identifying their personal strengths and community supports. Surveys are used to identify characteristics of caregivers, including employment, health and wellbeing, personal attributes, and community supports.

"Strengths and Capacities of Caregivers in Barrhead"

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Campsall, Hildegard, Peace Regional Health Authority

Ceilin, Vivian, Headwaters Regional Health Authority

Deis, Kelly, Aspen Regional Health Authority

Doze, Sandra, Crossroads Regional Health Authority

Jensen-Ross, Christine, Chinook Regional Health Authority

Parks, Pat, Northern Lights Regional Health Authority

Spelten, Darlene, Lakeland Regional Health Authority

Tennant, Wanda, Capital Regional Health Authority

Can Alberta's health regions develop and use a common set of health indicators to manage the health of the population?

The purpose of this project is to develop, implement, and apply a common set of indicators and outcome measures to determine baseline health of populations in Alberta's health regions. A grassroots, collaborative approach is used to develop, pilot, and implement a survey to capture an inventory of existing indicators. Combinations of analytical methods (including descriptive and content analysis) are used to categorize and frame existing and needed measures relating to health status indicators.

"Using Key Indicators of Health Status to Manage Health Improvement"

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Deis, Kelly, Aspen Regional Health Authority

Doze, Sandra, Crossroads Regional Health Authority

Boechler, Vickie, Capital Health Region

Smith, Neale, David Thompson Regional Health Authority

Does the PARTY program influence attitudes and behaviour of youth and thereby reduce the number of injuries and deaths in alcohol-related incidents?

The PARTY Program (Prevent Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth) is intended to reduce the occurrence of the risky behaviours and attitudes that lead to injuries in youth. This study evaluates the impact of the program on grade nine students. Through questionnaires and data on health service use, traffic violations, and motor vehicle collisions, the study compares the behaviours and attitudes of student participants up to three years after they participated in the program with those students who did not participate.

"Evaluation of the Party (Prevent Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth) Program"

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Jensen-Ross, Christine, Chinook Regional Health Authority

Boechler, Vickie, Capital Regional Health Authority

Buller, Lucy, Mistahia Regional Health Authority

Bursey, Robin, East Central Regional Health Authority

Plowman, Diane, Peace Regional Health Authority

Tennant, Wanda, Alberta Health

Yanicki, Sharon, Chinook Regional Health Authority

How does the management of Early Maternity Discharge in Alberta's health regions compare with clinical practice guidelines?

This study develops a broad understanding of the perinatal health practices in the hospital and community from the prenatal to the postnatal period, in relation to clinical practice guidelines. The multifaceted research project uses multiple methodologies, including literature and guideline reviews, regional interviews, comparison of home visit data, and analysis of length of stay and readmission data.

"Early Maternity Discharge in Alberta: A Review of Early Discharge in Relation to Perinatal Clinical practice Guidelines"

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Normandin, Georgina, Calgary Regional Health Authority

McAllister, Celeste, David Thompson Regional Health Authority

Nguyen, Thu-Ha, Alberta Health

What are the information needs of people living with Hepatitis C infection?

This study uses a survey method to find out what gaps in information are perceived by clients with positive Hepatitis C serology in Calgary and David Thompson health regions. The study also examines whether these information needs differ in a rural and urban population in Alberta, and whether the source of infection changes information needs.

"Meeting the Health Information Needs of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C"

Project Start: SEARCH 1998

O'Beirne, Maeve, Calgary Regional Health Authority and Alberta Family Practice Research Network

Gorsche, Ron, Headwaters Regional Health Authority, Alberta Family Practice Research Network

Wedel, Robert, Chinook Regional Health Authority, Alberta Family Practice Research Network

Wowk, Suzanne, East Central Regional Health Authority

Davidson, Muriel, Keeweetinok Lakes Regional Health Authority

Dennis Lowe, Peace Regional Health Authority

What effects do on-call duties have on family physicians, their families, and where they practice?

On-call duties can be a major stress for physicians and are a factor in recruitment and retention in rural areas. Through focus groups across Alberta, this study is the first to assess how on-call duties affect the professional and personal lives of family physicians as well as their families. The role of on-call duties in determining where a physician decides to practice is also examined.

"On-Call Burden and its Effects on Alberta Family Physicians/General Practitioners"

Project Start: SEARCH 1998

Simpson, Jennifer, Alberta Mental Health Board

Doze, Sandra, Crossroads Regional Health Authority

How is a routine tele-psychiatry service working?

This project assesses the accessibility, quality, and cost of operation of a tele-psychiatry service at five sites in Alberta, during a one-year pilot, and subsequent two years of operation. Data gathered through patient and physician surveys, interviews, cost analysis and technology assessment examined the viability of this form of service delivery for psychiatry.

Project Start: SEARCH 1996

Van Dijk, Marlies, Calgary Regional Health Authority

Penman, Yvette, Headwaters Regional Health Authority

Can a cross-sectoral approach to services improve access to medications, and what are the effects on health status in an inner-city population?

Through the coordinated effort of multiple organizations, this project determines the potential for improving access to appropriate medications among the homeless and working poor population of Calgary. The project assesses the impact on the health status as well as the impact on health system costs and services.

"Medication Access Pilot Project (MAPP)"

Project Start: SEARCH 1998

Wedel, Robert, Chinook Regional Health Authority, Alberta Family Practice Research Network

Lapins, Janet, Chinook Regional Health Authority

Patterson, Eileen, Chinook Regional Health Authority

How can primary care service be enhanced in a rural community?

This three-year demonstration project and research offers valuable insights into opportunities to enhance service delivery in rural communities. The research evaluates the implementation and, in particular, the effects of an alternative payment mechanism for physicians, improved information systems, and an integrated model of care, with more emphasis on decentralized management decisions.

"Implementation and Evaluation of an Integrated Primary Care Demonstration Project"

Project Start: SEARCH 1998

Dissemination Projects

Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research

Seniors' Health Research Workshop

The purpose of the Seniors' Health Research Workshop was to contribute to enhanced capacity for health research in seniors' health and to add value to research that had already taken place. Thirty-one individuals from seven Alberta health regions participated in the workshop, among them researchers including AHFMR award holders, decision-makers at clinical, management. and policy levels, and representatives of the seniors population. During the workshop, a number of areas in seniors health were identified where more research is needed in Alberta. Participants involved in seniors' health research articulated the characteristics that made a research project successful and described what funding mechanisms should be in place to aid this success. Participants also noted the issues and challenges surrounding the dissemination and utilization of research in seniors' health.

Project Term: March, 2000

College of Physical Therapists of Alberta

Alberta Physiotherapy Association (CPA/APA)

Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research

Current Research Evidence on Selected Treatment Interventions on Soft Tissue Neck Injury Following Trauma

The purpose of this systematic overview was to evaluate the status of current research on selected treatment interventions on soft tissue neck injury following trauma. The project resulted in the critical review of 320 articles based on developed relevancy criteria. The review concluded that there was poor evidence due to lack of quality research; thus, a decision was made not to disseminate findings.

Project Term: 1996-1997

Dobbs, Allan, Centre for Gerontology, University of Alberta

Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research

Discussion Forum on DriveAble Driving Evaluation

In 1993, Allan Dobbs conducted a research project to evaluate the older driver, which led to the development of the DriveAble Driving Evaluation. The first component of this two-part test is a screening to determine mental abilities important for safe and competent driving. The second is a road test that is only administered when scores of the screening test deem it necessary.

In October 1996, AHFMR conducted a half-day discussion forum to introduce Dobbs' work to key stakeholders, including representatives from the provincial government, physicians, senior citizen organizations, legal professionals, Canadian insurance industry, and the Alberta Motor Association. The purpose of the forum was threefold: 1) to assess the forum as an early dissemination strategy; 2) to determine if the stakeholders see this as a valid research that they would recommend to policy-makers; and 3) to identify issues related to incorporating this research into practice.

Project Term: 1997

England, Wendy, Professional Council of Licensed Practical Nurses (Alberta)

Godkin, Dianne, University of Alberta

Onyskiw, Judee E., Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research

Outcomes of Physical Restraint Reduction Programs for Elderly Residents in Long Term Care

The purpose of this systematic overview was to summarize the evidence about the effectiveness of physical restraint reduction programs for elderly residents in residential long-term care facilities. The project involved a review of appropriate literature based on a developed set of criteria for study inclusion. Dissemination activities included discussion forums, personal communication, publications, and a workshop.

Project Term: 1996-1997

Forbes, Dorothy Anne, Alberta Association of Registered Nurses

Strang, Vicki R., Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta

Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research

Strategies to Manage the Behavioural Symptomatology Associated with SDAT (Alzheimer's type Dementia)

The purpose of this systematic review was to summarize research about strategies that are effective in managing the behavioural symptomatology associated with senile dementia of the Alzheimer's type (SDAT). The project resulted in the critical review of 265 articles based on a set of relevance criteria. Dissemination activities included publications in professional journals, newsletters and web sites, discussion at international conferences, a multi-disciplinary workshop, and targeted communication to nursing faculty and students.

Project Term: 1996-1997

Hasselback, Paul, Calgary Regional Health Authority

Lentjes, Donna, Calgary Regional Health Authority

Kourchene, Wayne, Calgary Regional Health Authority

Evaluation of a Community Health Representative (CHR) Program on Access to and Utilization of Services by Aboriginal Persons in an Urban Setting: Dissemination Project

The Community Health Representative Program project in an urban setting sought to improve the availability of, access to, and increased satisfaction with health services for urban aboriginal people. The results of the project were summarized in 1998, and in June of that year AHFMR awarded a grant for dissemination of the project results. Dissemination activities included a number of presentations in local, provincial, and national venues, as well as wide distribution of the evaluation report. The information presented through these activities was evaluated based on a number of variables including value, practicality, materials and handouts, and others. The information was rated very high on all variables.

Project Term: 1998-1999

Kirwin, Dianne, University of Alberta

Society for the Retired and Semi-Retired

Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research

Effectiveness of Interventions to Improve the Use of Medications Prescribed to Elderly Persons with Chronic Conditions

The purpose of this systematic overview was to provide a summary of effectiveness of interventions in studies that measured changes in compliance with prescribed medication regimens, level of knowledge, or health status among community-based patients aged 65 and older with one or more chronic medical conditions. The project resulted in the critical review of 112 articles based on relevance criteria. Dissemination activities included person-to-person meetings with stakeholders, publishing of articles in journals and newsletters, presentations to key organizations.

Project Term: 1996-1997

Waye, Brenda, Alberta Health

Truman, Corrine, Alberta Health

Buller, Lucy, Mistahia Regional Health Authority

Hoskins, Sheryl, Mistahia Regional Health Authority

Casebeer, Ann, Alberta Health

Birdsell, Judy, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research

Mistahia Project

The primary purpose of this project is to increase understanding of utilization of health services in a rural northern region, and to facilitate use of utilization data to improve service delivery by involving stakeholders within the Mistahia region and at Alberta Health in data analysis. A concurrent objective is to better understand the knowledge generation, dissemination, and uptake process with a view to articulating lessons from this project that may be of interest to this region and others that are similar. Working collaboratively, AHW and the region are reviewing and analyzing region-specific data from six AHW administrative databases), with a view to identifying ways that this information can be used to inform future directions in the region.

Project Term: 2000

Technology Commercialization Projects

Phase I Projects

Mercor Dental

Apparatus for Dental Fillings

Technology consisting of a wedge, a matrix, and a clamp has been developed to improve existing methods and materials for filling posterior cavities.

Term of Approval: 1998-1999

Funding for Term: $35,000

Raso, James

POCO-Posture Control System for Treatment of Scoliosis

The applicant has developed a posture control system for the treatment of scoliosis using biofeedback.

Term of Approval: 1996

Funding for Term: $25,000

Remmers, John

Treatment for Sleep Apnea

Funding was provided for the development of a remotely controlled mandibular positioner (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) to be used in the treatment of patients with mild to moderate obstructive sleep apnea (OSA). While the patient is sleeping, the device automatically adjusts to the position of the mandibula, optimizing the airway opening.

Term of Approval: 1995-1996

Funding for Term: $25,000

Riauka, Terence, C-Soft Programming

PC-Based Diagnostic Imaging

The applicant has developed PC Windows-based software to facilitate the remote analysis and reporting of diagnostic images from a number of modalities. The software will allow the clinician to review and report on a patient's diagnostic images while away from the image source location – e.g., at another hospital, at the office, or at home.

Term of Approval: 1995-1996

Funding for Term: $22,215

Phase II Projects

Anlam Corp.

Fingersaver Device

The applicants have developed a hemostatic compression device to control bleeding in the femoral artery. The clamping device provides constant, even pressure and frees personnel from having to apply finger pressure to the patient's groin. The technology will be particularly helpful in the thousands of cardiac catheterization procedures performed every year using a femoral approach.

Term of Approval: 1996 - 1997

Funding for Term: $75,000

Biomotion Ltd.

Electrical Stimulation for Wheelchair Propulsion

For those who use a wheelchair, over-use injuries to the arms from wheeling their chairs around are almost as common as atrophy of the leg muscles from lack of use. This project will develop a system that uses electrical stimulation of the leg muscles and couples the resultant torque to the wheelchair. This would improve performance in the wheelchair and, at the same time, help to strengthen the legs, so that some individuals may again become functional walkers.

Term of Approval: 1998-2000

Funding for Term: $60,000

Diakur, James

Novel Multivalent Molecular Recognition Agents for Tumor Imaging with MRI

The project focuses on the development of a targeting agent that may assist the clinician in monitoring therapeutic progress during the treatment of ovarian cancer. Known as a "smart diagnostic," the agent would provide clinicians with a rapid, non-invasive means of monitoring the effectiveness of treatment.

Term of Approval: 1998-1999

Funding for Term: $75,000

Durdle, N.

Device that Aids in the Treatment of Spinal Deformity

The project is to develop a system to measure the loads imposed by the braces used to treat children with scoliosis.

Term of Approval: 1997

Funding for Term: $75,000

Merlo, Werner

Gyronic™ Locking Device

The applicant has developed a locking ball joint to be used in wrist joints. Based on novel principles, the device is smaller, stronger, and has a larger number and degree of locking positions than other products currently available.

Term of Approval: 1995-1996

Funding for Term: $75,000

Remmers, John, Saga Tech

Treatment of Sleep Apnea with Dental Devices

The project involves the development of technology related to the treatment of obstructive sleep apnea. The two dental devices move the lower jaw forward to optimize breathing during sleep. The first is a remotely controlled mandibular positioner (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) for use in hospital testing to determine if a patient is an appropriate candidate for treatment with a dental appliance. The second is an automatically adjusting mandibular positioner intended for nightly use. The device uses information regarding the patient's breathing and adjusts the degree of mandibular protrusion to the minimum required to meet the patient's needs on a moment-to-moment basis.

Term of Approval: 1999-2000

Funding for Term: $75,000

Riauka, Terry

Low Cost, PC-Based Diagnostic Imaging Software

Support is being provided for the commercialization of MEDisplay© Technology software to assist in diagnostic image display and review. The technology accepts raw data from a number of digital imaging modalities – nuclear medicine, MRI, CT, digital x-ray and digital ultrasound – and displays the image data using inexpensive, widely available, Microsoft Windows-based PCs. The raw image data can be displayed, manipulated, and analyzed. With the addition of Internet components, the data can also be received from or sent to any other computer on the Internet.

Term of Approval: 1998-1999

Funding for Term: $75,000

ROAM I.T. Inc

Data Collection System

The project is to commercialize a software application (RAMPART-EMS) for use by emergency response teams in collecting, sorting, retrieving, and analyzing data on individual patients.

Term of Approval: 1998-1999

Funding for Term: $150,000

Sheridan, Beverly, U.T.I.

WHMIS Software Training Program

The project is to develop the prototype for an interactive software program, WHMIS & You, to train workers in the safe handling of hazardous materials in the workplace.

Term of Approval: 1995-1996

Funding for Term: $64,350

Kimberly, Barry, Soundscape Technologies Inc.

Distortion Product Emission Measurement Device

The project is to develop a distortion product otoacoustic emission device that can be used to predict pure tone hearing thresholds accurately, objectively, and cost-effectively. The device will be portable and will be suitable for use in both pediatric and adult populations. It will also be used in the universal screening of newborns for hearing loss.

Term of Approval: 1995-1996

Funding for Term: $25,000

Phase III Projects

Cybernius Medical

Patient Management System for Nephrology

The project supports the CyberRen patient management system, an integrated patient management system for patients with chronic renal failure. The system's core technology is based on the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) integrated with hospital-networked computer hardware and software systems.

Term of Approval: 1995-1996

Funding for Term: $215,000

Hayward, Robert, Infoward Inc.

Watting, David, Infoward Inc.

Evidence-Based Health Information System

The project will assist in the commercialization of products and services developed by Infoward Inc., a new company established to take health information products and expertise from academia to the marketplace. The company's products include: Clinical Survey – guideline-based survey design and data collection tools; Resource Executive – knowledge inventory construction, maintenance, and publishing tools; and Clinical Integrator – clinical workstation management tools that capture data about information use. The company also offers services in automated survey and decision-aid design, knowledge inventory design, and clinical information systems.

Term of Approval: 1998-1999

Funding for Term: $450,000

Synapse Publishing

Disease Guidance Systems

The project will assist in the commercialization of Disease Guidance Systems (DGS), clinical decision support tools produced by Synapse Publishing. The DGS integrates the delivery of information and data capture into the health professional's work practice. With information on best practice and the supporting evidence engineered into the electronic medical record, updated on a regular basis, and delivered at the point of patient care, the DGS gives physicians the support they need at the time of decision-making.

Term of Approval: 1998

Funding for Term: $500,000

3 LINKING

Community Health Research Travel Fund

Auer, Anna

Contribution to attend at the Sixth International Conference on Safe Communities

Johannesberg, South Africa

Term of Approval: 1997

Funding for Term: $2000

Belton, Kathy L.

Fourth World Conference on Injury Control

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Term of Approval: 1998

Funding for Term: $0.00

Campbell, Robert W.

Attendance at Workshop on Tobacco Policy, sponsored by the National Cancer Institute of Canada

Toronto, Ontario

Term of Approval: 1999

Funding for Term: $1,090

Cree, Marilyn W.

Travel support to attend Canadian Association on Gerontology Conference

Ottawa, Ontario

Term of Approval: 1999

Funding for Term: $875

Deis, Kelly

Attendance at the Third International Conference on the Scientific Basis of Health Services

Toronto, Ontario.

Term of Approval: 1999

Funding for Term: $1,384

Doze, Sandra

Travel support to attend the Third International Conference on the Scientific Basis Of Health Services

Toronto, Ontario.

Term of Approval: 1999

Funding for Term: $1,298

Grant, Coral

Contribution towards attendance at the Tenth World Conference On Tobacco or Health

Beijing, China

Term of Approval: 1997

Funding for Term: $2,000

Lou, Edmond H.

Attendance at IEEE Instrumentation and Measurement Technology Society

Los Angeles, California, USA

Term of Approval: 1999

Funding for Term: $1,375

Miyagawa, Mitch

Travel support to attend the International Community Development Society Conference

Athens, Georgia

Term of Approval: 1997

Funding for Term: $1,300

Pain, Kerrie S.

Travel support to attend an NHRDP-funded project entitled Transfer and Uptake of Research Knowledge among Rehabilitation Professionals

Term of Approval: 1999-2000

Funding for Term: $4,000

Raso, James

Support to attend Clinical Applications Of 3-D Evaluation and International Research Society Of Spinal Deformities

Montreal, Quebec and Burlington, Vermont

Term of Approval: 1998

Funding for Term: $1,800

Raso, James

Attendance at Canadian Orthopaedic Research Society – Canadian Orthopaedic Association Annual Meeting

St. John's, Newfoundland

Term of Approval: 1999

Funding for Term: $1,500

Roberts, Susan

Attendance at the Thirtieth Annual International Conference of The Community Development Society

Kansas City, Missouri

Term of Approval: 1998

Funding for Term: $5,000

Smith, Neale

Attendance at the Canadian Evaluation Society Conference

St. John's, Newfoundland

Term of Approval: 1998

Funding for Term: $1,500

Vincenten, Joanne, University of Alberta

Contribution to attendance at the Sixth International Conference on Safe Communities

Johannesburg, South Africa

Term of Approval: 1997

Funding for Term: $2,000

Visiting Lecturer Program:
Community Health Research Professor

Carrière, Serge

Contribution to attend a one-day Symposium on Technology Commercialization, Collaboration and Financing the Entrepreneurial Venture

Edmonton, Alberta

Term of Approval: 1999

Funding for Term: $4,175

Maguire, Peter

Support of visit to the Department of Psychiatry, University of Calgary

Calgary, Alberta

Term of Approval: 1999

Funding for Term: $2,500

Marks, Isaac

Support of visit to the Universities of Calgary and Alberta

Edmonton and Calgary, Alberta

Term of Approval: 1995

Funding for Term: $1,875

Renaud, Marc

Contribution towards the cost of visit to the University of Alberta to deliver the Wilson Lecture

Edmonton, Alberta

Term of Approval: 1999

Funding for Term: $2,500

Ross, Saul

Support of Visit to the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Alberta

Edmonton, Alberta

Term of Approval: 1999

Funding for Term: $2,186

Scott, W. Richard

Support of visit with faculty and doctoral students of the Faculty of Business regarding research into the processes of reorganization of health care systems

Edmonton, Alberta

Term of Approval: 1997

Funding for Term: $3,525

Visiting Lecturer Program: Community Health Research – Visiting Scientist From Alberta

Kulig, Judith

Enhancement of Community Resiliency

Term of Approval: 1997

Funding for Term: $9,500

Visiting Lecturer Program: Community Health Research – Visiting Scientist to Alberta

Ho, Suzanne

Support of visit to the University of Alberta

Term of Approval: 1997

Funding for Term: $2,215

Knoppers, Bartha M., University of Alberta

Human Genetics, Ethics and Society

Term of Approval: 1995

Funding for Term: $65,000

Visiting Lecturer Program:
Community Health Research Conference Grants

Bergum, Vangie, University of Alberta

1999 Annual Canadian Bioethics Society Conference

Term of Approval: 1999

Funding for Term: $4,000

Carriere, Keumhee C., University of Alberta

Edmonton Statistics Conference and Workshop on Statistics and Health

Term of Approval: 2000

Funding for Term: $7,500

Crites Battié, Michele C., University of Alberta

Low Back Pain Management: Beyond Rhetoric Toward Outcomes and an Adjunct Research Symposium in Rehabilitation and Related Health Services

Term of Approval: 1997

Funding for Term: $5,000

Crites Battié, Michele C., University of Alberta

Low Back Pain Management: Beyond Rhetoric Toward Outcomes

Term of Approval: 1999

Funding for Term: $3,500

Desai, Sunil, University of Alberta

Education Day – Eleventh Annual Canadian Bioethics Society Conference

Term of Approval: 1999

Funding for Term: $2,000

Ghali, William A., University of Calgary

Support for Mark Moskowitz's visit to the University of Calgary to participate in the annual Health Research Methods Course organized by the Department of Community Health Sciences, University of Calgary

Term of Approval: 1998

Funding for Term: $2,500

Jennett, Penny A., University of Calgary

The First Global Conference on the Evaluation and Diffusion of Tele-health

Term of Approval: 1999

Funding for Term: $5,000

Kingstone, Alan F.

Banff Annual Seminar in Cognitive Science (BASICS)

Term of Approval: 1999

Funding for Term: $3,500

Kulig, Judith, University of Lethbridge

Local Workshops/Retreats or Planning Session: Resiliency Think Tank, Regional Centre for Health Promotion and Community Studies

Term of Approval: 1996

Funding for Term: $2,000

Kusmirski, Maryann, University of Calgary

The Health of the Public: Influences And Outcomes

Term of Approval: 1999

Funding for Term: $3,500

Logan de Chavez, Kathy, Glenrose Rehab Centre, Edmonton

Caslpa '99 Conference

Term of Approval: 1999

Funding for Term: $3,000

Menon, Devidas, Institute of Pharmaco Economics

The Evidence for Evidence: Getting Value for Money in Economic Evaluations of Health and Health Care

Term of Approval: 1999

Funding for Term: $10,000

Morse, Janice M., University of Alberta

Advances in Qualitative Methods

Term of Approval: 1999

Funding for Term: $5,000

Morse, Janice M., University of Alberta

The Nature of Evidence: Contributions from Qualitative Inquiry

Term of Approval: 1999

Funding for Term: $5,000

Morse, Janice M., University of Alberta

The Sixth Annual Qualitative Health Research Conference

Term of Approval: 2000

Funding for Term: $5,000

Ridley, Una, School Health Sciences, University of Lethbridge

Health in Rural Settings: From the Ground Up

Term of Approval: 1998

Funding for Term: $5,000

Stingl, Michael, University of Lethbridge

Efficiency, Efficacy and Equality: Analyzing the Social Impact of Health Reform in Alberta

Term of Approval: 1995

Funding for Term: $5,000

Stuart, Heather L., University of Calgary

Support for Geoffrey M. Anderson's visit to the University of Calgary to participate in the annual Health Research Methods Course organized by the Department of Community Health Sciences, University of Calgary

Term of Approval: 1998

Funding for Term: $2,500

Tenove Brummitt, Sandra C., University of Calgary

Conversations in Dissemination

Term of Approval: 1999

Funding for Term: $2,500

Vincenten, Joanne, University of Alberta

Safe Communities: Let's Make it Happen – Third National Safe Communities Conference and the Eighth Injury in Alberta Conference November 4-5, 1999

Term of Approval: 1999

Funding for Term: $3,400

Wild, T. Cameron, University of Alberta

Symposium on Addictions and Population Health

Term of Approval: 1999

Funding for Term: $3,000

Wilson, Deborah E., Alberta Medical Association

Alberta-wide Forum on Diabetes, November 4-5, 1999

Term of Approval: 1999

Funding for Term: $3,000

4 PEOPLE: HUMAN RESOURCES CAPACITY BUILDING

Career Awards

Population Health Investigators

Auld, Christopher, University of Calgary

Health and the labour market

The research program analyzes health economics related to the complex relationships among health status, health-affecting behaviours, such as substance abuse, and such labour market outcomes as wages, hours of work, and labour force status.

1999 – 2002

Brown, Lesley A., University of Lethbridge

Identifying risk factors for falling: is fear of falling beneficial or detrimental to stability?

Fear of falling may jeopardize stability and contribute to increasing the risk of falls in the elderly. The objective of this research is to determine the importance of fear of falling on reducing the risk for falls in the elderly population. It is expected that this research could lead to intervention studies examining confidence training as a tool for fall prevention.

1999 – 2002

Caufield, Timothy A., University of Alberta

Legal issues in the allocation and utilization of genetic services: a model for the analysis of health care policies and reform

The research project seeks to examine the legal and ethical issues that will flow from the allocation and utilization of genetic services in the era of cost containment in the health care system. This might lead to a model to assist decision-makers for future development of allocation policy. It will focus on the forces that may influence allocation of genetic services, identify the rights, duties and interests of the various stakeholders, determine the suitability of the current legal framework, and, if necessary, propose reforms.

1996 – 1999

Caufield, Timothy A. (Renewal), University of Alberta

Legal issues in the allocation and utilization of genetic services: regulation of the genetech industry

This project seeks to reconcile the concerns of the various stakeholders about the ultimate ramifications of the developing genetic technologies in the hope of informing future related policy development. It aims to investigate how the emerging ethical, legal, and social concerns can be addressed through existing regulatory mechanisms. Its focus will be limited to the practical applications of genetic technology.

1999 – 2002

Cook, Linda S., University of Calgary

Combined hormone replacement therapy and the risk of breast cancer

The primary aim of this study is to estimate the risk of breast cancer associated with the use of combined hormone therapy. The research is a population-based, case control investigation of incident breast cancer among women 50 to 69 years in different regional health authorities in Alberta. This study is important in evaluating whether combined hormone replacement therapy might confer even a modest increase in the risk of breast cancer.

1998 – 2001

Ghali, William A., University of Calgary

Evaluation of hospital mortality and complication rates after coronary artery bypass surgery in western Canada

This research program will expand on Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting-related health services research to evaluate the quality of care surrounding this complex treatment course. The outcome of the program might be to benefit CABG surgery by identifying and minimizing adverse outcomes related to quality of care problems.

1996 – 1999

Ghali, William A., University of Calgary

Health services research on the outcomes of coronary artery bypass grafting and outcome assessment in coronary heart disease

This program of research will build on the initial proposal to evaluate the quality of care surrounding the Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting surgical procedure. Other activities will focus on the investigation of socio-demographic factors and access to cardiac procedures issues.

1999 – 2003

Johnson, Jeffrey A., University of Alberta

Valuation of Euroqol and SF-12 and predictive capabilities in a longitudinal health-related quality of life assessment of Albertans

Currently used indicators of population health status, such as life expectancy or infant mortality, provide good general indices of health, but do not provide an individual's perspectives within a population. Euroqol and SF-12 are self-assessed quality of life instruments that are being used increasingly. The project will establish a set of Alberta-based population weights for the core health states described in Euroqol, evaluate its psychometric properties, and compare responses to Euroqol and SF-12. Results will also be compared to surveys done in other countries to evaluate the capabilities and usefulness of these instruments in a provincial setting.

1997 – 2000

Lu, Mingshan, University of Calgary

Incentives and accountability in publicly funded health care: the case of mental health and substance abuse treatment

The objective of this program is to study the concept of using incentives of reimbursement and contracting mechanisms to improve the effectiveness of publicly-funded health services. On the practical side, the project will design contracts between funders and providers of mental health and substance abuse treatment and assess the effectiveness of these contracts in improving health services.

1997 – 2000

Macarthur, Colin, University of Calgary

A population-based evaluation of the representativeness of emergency department data on childhood injury

This study aims to determine the pattern of health care utilization by acutely injured children in the Calgary region. It will also try to determine the representativeness of the emergency department data on childhood injury provided by the hospital in comparison to data on children seeking medical attention elsewhere. Finally, this study will determine the rate of medically-attended childhood injuries in the Calgary region. The results of the study will be useful to researchers and policy-makers by providing a framework for any inferences that may be drawn from etiologic or evaluative studies.

1997 – 2000

MacDonald, Tara K., University of Lethbridge

Alcohol intoxication and health-risk behaviours: understanding and reducing the coincidence of unsafe sex and alcohol intoxication

This is a study of the situational determinants of health-risk behaviours. Specifically, the aim will be to examine the possibility that alcohol intoxication affects the decision-making process, increasing the likelihood that people will engage in potentially destructive behaviours. The primary objectives will focus on the cognitive processes underlying the relation between alcohol and risky behaviours.

1998 – 1999

McAlister, Finlay A., University of Alberta

Studies to enhance the application of efficacious therapies in cardiovascular disease

Clinical trials have established the efficacy of various therapies in the treatment and prevention of cardiovascular disease. However, this evidence is inconsistently applied in practice. Closure of this care-gap is of vital importance in improving the health of population. This research program will study the effectiveness of various interventions in enhancing the provision of efficacious therapies to at-risk patients.

1999 – 2002

Meadows, Lynn, University of Calgary

The perceived health and health-related experiences of mid-life women

The need for a broader understanding of women's health becomes more salient as public health policy is increasingly targeted towards having health-related decisions belong to women. The study is intended to contribute to the development of a primary care intervention that meets the health and information needs of midlife women. The exact nature of the intervention will be determined after women have been asked to articulate their issues and needs. The results will provide insights into which issues are viewed by women as health-related, and which need to be approached from another perspective.

1996 – 1999

Patten, Scott, University of Calgary

An evaluation of the impact of selection bias on case-control studies of major depression using clinical subjects

Good estimates of the prevalence of major depression are available from the descriptive literature, but the analytical epidemiological literature remains relatively poorly developed. One impediment to conducting these types of studies is the expense. Case-control studies that use clinical samples may compensate for some of these disadvantages but are vulnerable to selection bias. The goal of this study is to determine the impact of selection bias on clinical case-control studies evaluating certain purported risk factors for major depression. The results could be used to evaluate the appropriateness of case-control design for future studies.

1996 - 1999

Patten, Scott (Renewal), University of Calgary

Depression: epidemiology and prevention

This research program is focused on the possible improvement of the health status of the population through the prevention of depression. The aim of the studies will be to provide a more detailed understanding of the epidemiological determinants of depressive disorders by collecting data in an Alberta population. The study will also contribute to the evaluation and development of preventive strategies applicable within the population.

1999 - 2002

Smythe, James G., University of Alberta

The relationship between workers' health and their control over their working hours

This project is built on the hypothesis that workers with largely self-determined working hours will be healthier, on average, than those whose hours are set by their organization. Its aim will be to investigate this and the use of the health care system by both types of workers. This will be done by building a model of a worker's health maintenance behaviour under various workplace restrictions and allowances. The results could provide a better understanding of the relationship between control over working hours, health, and health care use.

1999 - 2002

Suarez-Almazor, Maria E., University of Alberta

Mortality, morbidity and long-term institutionalization after hip fracture

This study will provide information in relation to the current trends and risk factors for institutionalization after hip fractures in a Canadian population. This will be done through an examination of the Alberta trends in institutionalization and mortality after hip fracture during the period 1990 to 1996. It will also rely on an evaluation of the determinants of institutionalization, disability, and mortality. The results should provide information for administrators and policy makers to assist in the planning of programs that meet individual patients' needs.

1996 - 1999

Suarez-Almazor, Maria E., University of Alberta

Cost-effectiveness of total joint replacement in the elderly

The purpose of the current proposal is to evaluate the long-term outcomes in a patient cohort, with particular emphasis on the outcomes of elderly individuals. The objectives will be to describe the long-term pain and functional outcomes, and health-related quality of life in a population of patients with total joint arthroplasty (TJA). The studies will also evaluate the gains in pain relief, function, and quality of life in elderly individuals compared to younger patients and perform an economic analysis of the benefits in the elderly.

1999

Heritage Health Scholar

Raine Travers, Kim D., University of Alberta

An ecological perspective on capacity-building for population health

This program will try to explain how social and economic determinants of health are working to construct variations in health status. This will be done by examining in what ways variations in health status among population groups generate and maintain social constructs. The efficacy of health promotion through capacity-building at different levels of the ecological model in addressing the social and economic determinants of health will also be assessed. The results will form the first step in creating health promotion strategies to address health determinants.

1999 - 2004

Heritage Senior Health Scholar

Carriere, Keumhee C., University of Alberta

Biostatistical advancements in medical and health research

This research program aims to propose new directions on the use of large administrative databases for informed decision-making, without compromising confidentiality and privacy concerns. It will develop conditions that bear on the validity of making inferences on data from the ecological level to the level of the individual. It will aim to specify the detailed conditions under which ecological analysis of data is a sufficient alternative to individual analysis.

1999 – 2004

Donaldson, Cameron, University of Calgary

Creation of health economics program of research at the University of Calgary

This research program will develop economic approaches to the assessment of health and health care policy in areas such as population needs-based resource allocation, and design and evaluation of different regulations and contracting in health services. It also aims to develop health economics techniques to address the issue of the elicitation of community values with respect to health care priorities and will try to build a framework to facilitate decision-making with respect to priority setting at the regional level.

1998 – 2003

Morse, Janice M., University of Alberta

Delineating processes of comforting

This research program is aimed at exploring methods that clinicians use to assist patients to endure and to ease suffering. This will be done through an analysis of the process of providing comfort during the various stages of an illness, a microanalysis of nurse comforting behaviours for the distressed trauma patients, and through the continued analysis of behavioural concepts embedded in the concept of making the patient more comfortable.

1997 – 2002

Stewart, Miriam J., University of Alberta

Social support: health determinant, protective factor in resilience and relevant interventions

The program of research will be focused on social support as a health determinant and protective factor. Specifically, it will asses the mechanisms by which social support exerts an impact on health status, health behaviour, and health services use. Linkages between social support and other key determinants of health, such as socioeconomic status and culture, will also be investigated. Finally, support interventions will be designed and implemented and their impact on health outcomes will be evaluated.

1999 – 2004

Videman, K. Tapio, University of Alberta

Determinants of spinal degenerative findings: a methodological and epidemiological investigation with twins using MPI and DEXA

The studies are aimed at investigating the etiology and pathogenesis of intervertebral disc degeneration and bone density. This will be done though an estimation of the proportion of variability in disc degeneration, as judged through MRI assessments, ascribable to genetic influences. The knowledge gained will assist in the development of more rational, efficient preventive strategies in the treatment of conditions such as back pain and osteoporotic fractures – both of which are expensive public health problems.

1996 – 2001

Independent Establishment Grants

Froese, Kenneth L., University of Alberta

Human exposure of Drinking Water Disinfection By-Products (DBPs) and DBP metabolites

The primary focus of this research is to develop improved techniques to assess how exposure to Disinfection By-Products in drinking water affects humans. The researcher will develop analytical methods and technology to detect and quantify DBPs in the breath, blood, and urine of sample populations experiencing high exposure to DBPs in Alberta and Australia. Subsequent phases of the project will identify potential DBP metabolites in the sample populations. The development of valid biomarkers will help researchers to accurately assess the effect DBPs have on human functions, particularly reproductive functions.

1999 – 2001

Gibson, Nancy L., University of Alberta

A study of the socio-cultural factors affecting tuberculosis prevention and treatment in immigrant and aboriginal populations in Alberta

This research program is aimed at identifying the various social and cultural factors which influence the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis in two high-risk populations in Alberta – the foreign-born and aboriginal populations. Knowing what socio-cultural factors influence behaviour will help to establish standards for more effective TB prevention and treatment programs for high-risk populations.

1998 – 2001

Training Awards

Health Research Full-Time Student Awards

Benzies, Karen M., University of Alberta, 1998 – 2000

DeMoissac, Donna M., University of Alberta, 1995 – 1996

Dryden, Donna M., University of Alberta, 2000 – 2001

Dymond, Karin E., University of Calgary, 1998 – 2000

Huang, Rong, University of Alberta, 1998 – 2000

Jones, C. Allyson, University of Alberta, 1997 – 1999

Kembhavi, Gayatri, University of Alberta, 1999 – 2000

Mitton, Craig R., University of Calgary, 1999 – 2001

Neufeld, Susan M., University of Alberta, 1995 – 1997

Page, Stacey A., University of Calgary, 1997 – 2001

Pickard, A. Simon, University of Alberta, 2000 – 2001

Quantz, Darryl, University of Calgary, 1999 – 2001

Rhodes, Ryan E., University of Alberta, 1999 – 2001

Rieger, Jana M., University of Alberta, 1998 – 2000

Scott-Findley, Shannon, University of Alberta, 2000 – 2001

Smythe, James G., University of York, 1995 – 1999

Thomas, Chandra M., University of Calgary, 1997 – 1999

Tourangeau, Ann E., University of Alberta, 1998 – 2000

Warnock, Fay F., University of Alberta, 1995 – 1998

Wondmagegnehu, Es, University of Alberta, 1997 – 1999

Health Research Part-Time Student Awards

Wong, Norris A., University of Alberta, 1996 - 1999

Studentship - Mental Health Awards

Bryceland, Christy, University of Calgary, 2000 - 2001

Dozois, David J., University of Calgary, 1996 - 1999

Khatri, Nasreen, University of Calgary, 1998 - 2001

Lavorato, Dina H., University of Calgary, 1997 - 1999

Rucklidge, Julia, J., University of Alberta, 1996 - 1997

Welder, Andrea N., University of Calgary, 1998 - 2001

Health Research Fellowship Awards

Estabrooks, Carole, University of Alberta, 1997 - 1999

Huh, Jib, University of Alberta, 1999 - 2001

Summer Students

Andersen, Karen V., University of Alberta

Barker, Samantha J., University of Alberta

Beselt, Jeffrey K., University of Alberta

Betty, Laura A., University of Calgary

Bishop, Laine K., University of Alberta

Burback, Lisa M., University of Alberta

Chahal, Anthony M., University of Alberta

Chouinard, Karen J., University of Alberta

Czeckowsky, Diana K., University of Calgary

Daniel, Ariadne D., University of Alberta

Demke, Tamara L., University of Calgary

Dyke, Lisa T., University of Alberta

Fernandes, Dellano D., University of Calgary

Fitch, Kathryn A., University of Calgary

Frizzley, Jill K., University of Alberta

Hamilton, Tracy L., University of Alberta

Harvey, Harriet L., University of Alberta

Horner, Joanne D., University of Calgary

Hornig, Joshua D., University of Alberta

Johnson, C. Micha\ l, University of Alberta

Johnston, Glenda R., University of Alberta

Kendall, Chris J., University of Alberta

Khullar, Atul K., University of Alberta

King, Donna L., University of Alberta

Kroetsch, Michael D., University of Alberta

Lamont, Mary Ellen, University of Alberta

Lee-Baggley, Dayna L., University of Calgary

Leong-Sit, Philip P., University of Alberta

Leswal, Julie C., University of Alberta

Ma, Steven H., University of Alberta

Magill, Chandra A., University of Alberta

Makar, Kami L., University of Alberta

Malcolm, Christine E., University of Calgary

Matic, John P., University of Alberta

Melsness, Carolyn R., University of Alberta

Michel, Marlon B., University of Alberta

Mokashi, Arati S., University of Calgary

Monagle, Krista L., University of Alberta

Musselwhite, Kimberly L., University of Alberta

Nevin, Bobbi J., University of Alberta

Perun, R. Anna, University of Alberta

Rabin, Erica A., University of Alberta

Rapchuk, Ivan L., University of Calgary

Robson, Danny G., University of Alberta

Row, Terri, University of Alberta

Sarbit, M. Danielle, University of Alberta

Scarfe, Sarah E., University of Alberta

Scott, Susan A., University of Alberta

Sher, Andy K., University of Alberta

Smith, Heather L., University of Alberta

Smith, Trent J., University of Alberta

Soper, Natasha E., University of Alberta

Steele, Nicholas G., University of Alberta

Sukhrani, Nina, University of Alberta

Swanson, Karin E., University of Alberta

Taher, Muba S., University of Alberta

Thiara, Parminder K., University of Alberta

Tran, Quynh M., University of Alberta

Warner, Kristin, University of Alberta

Warren, Marika D., University of Alberta

Wilkes, Heidi R., University of Alberta

Yang, Marjorie L., University of Alberta

Zinner, Rosalie A., University of Alberta

SEARCH Participants

SEARCH I

Boechler, Vickie, Capital Regional Health Authority

Brockway, Pamela, Keeweetinok Lakes Regional Health Authority

Buller, Lucy, Mistahia Regional Health Authority

Bulloch, Sally, Headwaters Regional Health Authority

Bursey, Robin, East Central Health

Ceilin, Vivian, Headwaters Regional Health Authority

Dedrick, Angie, Capital Regional Health Authority

Deis, Kelly, Aspen Regional Health Authority

Doze, Sandra, Crossroads Regional Health Authority

Farrell, Kathy, Palliser Regional Health Authority

Halbert, Tracy, Calgary Regional Health Authority

Jensen-Ross, Christine, Chinook Regional Health Authority

Kluthe, Jan, Northern Lights Regional Health Authority

Parks, Pat, Northern Lights Regional Health Authority

Plowman, Diane, Peace Regional Health Authority

Richen, Dan, Regional Health Authority No. 5

Simpson, Jennifer, Alberta Mental Health Board

Smith, Neale, David Thompson Regional Health Authority

Spelten, Darlene, Capital Regional Health Authority

Stasiuk, Sonya, Lakeland Regional Health Authority

Tennant, Wanda, Alberta Health

Yanicki, Sharon, Chinook Regional Health Authority

SEARCH II

Belton, Kathy L., Alberta Centre for Injury Control and Research

Clelland, Steven, Alberta Mental Health Board

Davidson, Muriel, Keeweetinok Lakes Regional Health Authority

Gorsche, Ron, Headwaters Regional Health Authority

Howe, Linda, Chinook Regional Health Authority

Lapins, Janet, Chinook Regional Health Authority

Lowe, Dennis, Peace Regional Health Authority

Marini, Sandra, Keeweetinok Lakes Regional Health Authority

McAllister, Celeste, David Thompson Regional Health Authority

Mosmann, Penny, Health Canada (Alberta)

Myhre, Teri, Chinook Regional Health Authority

Nguyen, Thu-Ha, Alberta Health

Nichols, Jean-Ann, Alberta Mental Health Board

Normandin, Georgina, Calgary Regional Health Authority

O'Beirne, Maeve, Calgary Regional Health Authority Alberta Family Practice Research Network

Patterson, Eileen, Palliser Regional Health Authority

Penman, Yvette, Headwaters Regional Health Authority

Ross, Sheri, Northwestern Regional Health Authority

Sinclair, Allan, Lakeland Regional Health Authority

Van Dijk, Marlies, Calgary Regional Health Authority

Vreeken, Ary, Calgary Regional Health Authority

Wedel, Robert, Chinook Regional Health Authority, Alberta Family Practice Research Network

Whitridge, Monica, Calgary Regional Health Authority

Wowk, Suzanne, East Central Health

5 PEOPLE: DRAWING ON EXPERIENCE

AHFMR Senior Staff

Birdsell, Judy, Director of Dissemination (from 1998)

Humphreys, Linda, Vice-President Corporate Affairs and Commercialization (from 1990)

Hammond, Lois, Director of Dissemination (1995-1998)

Hailey, David, Director of HTA (1995-1999)

Hayward, Sarah, Manager of SEARCH (from 2000)

Juzwishin, Don, Director of HTA (from 1999)

Magnan, Jacques, Vice-President, Research (from 1994)

Read, Sharon, Coordinator for SEARCH (1996-1999)

Spence, Matthew, Chief Executive Officer (from 1990)

Thurber, Kathleen, Director of Communications (from 1996)

Advisory Committees

Alberta Health Collaboration Advisory Committee (*Starting in 1996*)

Allen, Marion N., University of Alberta (to 1996)

Beck, Glen, University of Saskatchewan (to 1999)

Campbell, Sharon, National Cancer Institute of Canada – Waterloo, Ontario (to 1998)

Kaplan, Bonne, Calgary Regional Health Authority (Alberta Children's Hospital) (to 1997)

Maguire, Thomas O., University of Alberta (to 1998)

McDonald, John, University of Calgary (to 1997)

Newman, Stephen, University of Alberta

Remmers, John, University of Calgary (to 2000)

Spady, Donald W., University of Alberta (to 1999)

Wilson, Douglas R., University of Alberta (to present)

Alberta Health Collaboration Advisory Committee (*Starting in 1997*)

Dobson, Keith, University of Calgary (to 2000)

Hasselback, Paul, Chinook Regional Health Authority (to 1998)

Neufeld, Anne, University of Alberta (to 1998)

Swanson, Evelyn, Alberta Health (to 1999)

Alberta Health Collaboration Advisory Committee (*Starting in 1998*)

Arboleda-Florez, Julio, Queen's University (to 1998)

Hessel, Patrick, University of Alberta (to 1999)

Hogan, David, University of Calgary (to 1998)

Kysela, Gerald, University of Alberta (to 1998)

Musto, Richard, Calgary Regional Health Authority

Reddon, John R., Capital Regional Health Authority

Alberta Health Collaboration Advisory Committee (*Starting in 1999*)

Birkett, Nicholas, University of Ottawa (to 2000)

Deis, Kelly, Aspen Regional Health Authority (to 1999)

Dougherty, Geoffrey, Montreal Children's Hospital (Montreal, Quebec) (to 1999)

Jardine, Cindy, Alberta Health (to 2000)

Ungar, Wendy, Hospital for Sick Children, (Toronto, Ontario) (to 1999)

Health Advisory Committee (*Start on or before 1995*)

Green, Lawrence W., University of British Columbia (1994-1999)

Hayward, Robert, University of Alberta (1994-1996)

Iverson, Donald C., Can-Am Health Concepts, Inc. (Denver, Colorado) (1994-1996)

Lawrence, Robert S., Johns Hopkins Hospital (Baltimore, Maryland) (1994 to present)

Perrin, Edward B., University of Washington (1994 to present)

Scholefield, Peter, Etobicoke, Ontario (1994–1999)

Sheldon, Trevor, University of York (1994 to present)

Spence, Matthew, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (1994 to present)

Svanstrom, Leif, Karolinska Institutet (Stockholm, Sweden) (1994-2000)

Tugwell, Peter, University of Ottawa (1994-1999)

Health Advisory Committee (*Starting in 1996*)

Aiken, Linda, University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) (1999 to present)

Neuhauser, Duncan, Case Western Reserve University (Cleveland, Ohio) (1996 to present)

Freund, Deborah A., Syracuse University (Syracuse, New York) (1999 to present)

Laupacis, Andreas, Ottawa Civic Hospital (Ottawa, Ontario) (1999 to present)

Roberts, Helen, Barnardo's (Essex, UK) (1999 to present)

Health Research Advisory Committee (*Starting in 1996*)

Black, Lyall, East Central Health (1996 to 1998)

Bryant, Heather, Alberta Cancer Board (1996 to present)

Dawe, Ursula, Calgary Regional Health Authority (Foothills Medical Centre) (1996 to present)

Hasselback, Paul, Chinook Regional Health Authority (1996 to present)

Kennedy, Nelson, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (1996 to present)

MacKay, J.A., Palliser Regional Health Authority (1996 to present)

Martin, Luis, Biomira Inc. (1996-1999)

Oordt, Mary, Lethbridge, Alberta (1996 to present)

Payne, Sheila, Society for the Retired and Semi-Retired (1996 to present)

Philippon, Don, University of Alberta (1996 to present)

Scott, Ken, Garth Toombs and Associates Inc. (1996-1998)

Sommer, Sheilah, Headwaters Regional Health Authority (1996 to present)

Spence, Matthew, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (1996 to present)

Sutherland, Lloyd R., University of Calgary (1996 to present)

Weatherhill, Sheila, Capital Regional Health Authority (1996 to present)

Wilson, Douglas R., University of Alberta (1996 to present)

Wilson, Penny, Alberta Mental Health Board (1996 to present)

Wynters, Hilary, Mistahia Regional Health Authority (1996 to present)

Health Research Advisory Committee (*Starting in 1997 or after*)

Dyck, Ronald, Alberta Health (1998 to present)

Mabbot, Shelley, Mabbot and Company (Cochrane, Alberta) (1998 to present)

Nyland, Barbara, Alberta Science and Research Authority (1997 to present)

Petz, Steve, East Central Health (1998 to present)

ACHRN Advisory Committee (*Starting in 1998*)

Abrams, Howard, The Toronto Hospital

Birdsell, Judy, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research

Chambers, Larry, McMaster University

Deis, Kelly, Aspen Regional Health Authority

Elford, Wayne, University of Calgary

Gray, Bette, Gray and Associates (Stony Plain, Alberta)

Hasselback, Paul, Chinook Regional Health Authority

McMillan, Stewart, Regina, Saskatchewan

Mustard, Cameron, University of Toronto

Noseworthy, Tom, University of Alberta

Spence, Matthew, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research

Sutherland, Lloyd R., University of Calgary

Triska, Ollie, Alberta Consultative Health Research Network

Verhoef, Marja, Alberta Consultative Health Research Network

Community Health Research Ethics Review Committee (*CHRERC*)

Bowker, H. Neil, Calgary, Alberta

Howell, James, Edmonton, Alberta

O'Beirne, Maeve, Calgary, Alberta

Strom, Brenda, Grande Prairie, Alberta

Stingl, Michael, Lethbridge, Alberta

Dissemination Committee

Chellas, Merry, Chellas Communications (1996-1998)

Davis, Herbert, Calgary Regional Health Authority (Alberta Children's Hospital) (1996-1999)

Hammond, Lois, Consultant (1996-1999)

Kotani, Nancy, Capital Regional Health Authority (1996-1996)

Noseworthy, Tom, University of Alberta (1996-1999)

Sommer, Sheilah, Headwaters Regional Health Authority (Banff Mineral Springs Hospital) (1997-1999)

Spence, Matthew, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (1996-1999)

Rosenal, Tom, Calgary Regional Health Authority (1996-1999)

Willox, Dave, Peace Regional Health Authority (1996-1999)

Health Technology Assessment Committee (*1996*)

Berry, Don, Source Medical

Black, Lyall, East Central Regional Health Authority

Hailey, David, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research

Sutherland, Lloyd R., University of Calgary

Ward, Bryan, College of Physicians and Surgeons

Noseworthy, Tom, University of Alberta

Menon, Devidas, Canadian Coordinating Office of Health Technology Assessment

Linklater, David, Alberta Health

Carriere, Gayle, Alberta Association of Registered Nurses

Wynters, Hilary, Mistahia Regional Health Authority

Health Technology Assessment Committee (*1997*)

Berry, Don, Source Medical

Black, Lyall, East Central Regional Health Authority

Hailey, David, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research

Marck, Patricia, Alberta Association of Registered Nurses

Menon, Devidas, Institute of Pharmaco-Economics

Noseworthy, Tom, University of Alberta

Orleans, Miriam, University of Colorado

Sutherland, Lloyd R., University of Calgary

Ward, Bryan, College of Physicians and Surgeons (Edmonton, Alberta)

Webers, Mike, Alberta Health

Wynters, Hilary, Mistahia Regional Health Authority

Health Technology Assessment Committee (*1998*)

Stakiw, Elaine, Alberta Health

Berry, Don, Source Medical (Edmonton, Alberta)

Black, Lyall, East Central Regional Health Authority

Marck, Patricia, Alberta Association of Registered Nurses

Menon, Devidas, Institute of Pharmaco-Economics (Edmonton, Alberta)

Noseworthy, Tom, University of Alberta

Sutherland, Lloyd R., University of Calgary

Orleans, Miriam, University of Colorado

Ward, Bryan, College of Physicians and Surgeons (Edmonton, Alberta)

Wynters, Hilary, Mistahia Regional Health Authority

Hailey, David, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research

Health Technology Assessment Committee (*1998/99*)

Jirsch, Dennis, Alberta Health

Phillipchuk, Debbie, Alberta Assocation of Registered Nurses

Stakiw, Elaine, Alberta Health

Berry, Don, Source Medical (Edmonton, Alberta)

Menon, Devidas, Institute of Pharmaco-Economics (Edmonton, Alberta)

Noseworthy, Tom, University of Alberta

Sutherland, Lloyd R., University of Calgary

Orleans, Miriam, University of Colorado

Ward, Bryan, College of Physicians and Surgeons, (Edmonton, Alberta)

Wynters, Hilary, Mistahia Regional Health Authority

Hailey, David, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research

SEARCH Steering Committee

SEARCH I

Givens, Anne E., Alberta Health

Friesen, Brenda, Calgary Regional Health Authority (Calgary Health Services)

Kalinka, Sharon, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research

Nelson, Dwight, Headwaters Regional Health Authority

Reynolds, Nancy, Provincial Mental Health Board

Spence, Matthew, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research

SEARCH II

Casebeer, Ann, University of Calgary

Cox, Sharon, Keeweetinok Lakes Regional Health Authority

Doze, Sandra, Crossroads Regional Health Authority

Gabos, Stephen, Alberta Health

Kalinka, Sharon, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research

Lau, Francis, University of Alberta

Nelson, Dwight, Headwaters Regional Health Authority

O'Beirne, Maeve, Calgary Regional Health Authority Alberta Family Practice Research Network

Simpson, Jennifer, Alberta Mental Health Board (Edmonton, Alberta)

Spence, Matthew, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research

Voaklander, Don, University of Alberta

SEARCH Curriculum Committee

SEARCH I

Casebeer, Ann, University of Calgary

Fick, Gordon, University of Calgary

Laing, Lory, University of Alberta

Voaklander, Don, University of Alberta

SEARCH II

Casebeer, Ann, University of Calgary

Hessel, Patrick, University of Alberta

Verhoef, Marja, University of Calgary

Voaklander, Don, University of Alberta

Technology Commercialization Committee (*Starting before or in 1995*)

Biggs, Thomas, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (1990-2000)

Dolphin, David, University of British Columbia (1994-2000)

Harrison, Rand, Edmonton, Alberta (1992-1997)

Libin, Alvin, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (1990-2000)

Lowden, Sandy, Toronto, Ontario (1990-1999)

McDonald, Bruce, Manitoba Health Research Council (1990-2000)

McEwan, James, Western Clinical (Vancouver, British Columbia) (since 1994)

Seaman, Donald, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (1995-1996)

Wolthuis, Roger, District of Columbia, Washington (1990-1996)

Technology Commercialization Committee (*Starting 1996*)

Witt, Michael, Cox-Hodgeman-Giarmarco, (Troy, Michigan) (1996-1999)

Technology Commercialization Committee (*Starting 1997*)

Wong, Mel, Innovation and Science (Edmonton, Alberta) (1997-2000)

Kitchen, David*, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research, Calgary, Alberta (since 1997)

Technology Commercialization Committee (*Starting 1999/2000*)

Babiuk, Lorne, Veterinary Infectious Disease Organization (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan) (since 1999)

Greenwood, Paul*, Misericordia Hospital, (Edmonton, Alberta) (since 2000 – current chair)

Hill, Peter, Innovation and Science, Edmonton, Alberta (since 2000)

Hamilton, Emily, LMS Medical Systems, Montreal, Quebec (since 1999)

Hotchkiss, Harley*, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research, Calgary, Alberta (since 2000)

Macklem, Peter, Inspiraplex/McGill University, Montreal, Quebec (since 1999)

Rice, Thomas, White Bear Lake, Minnesota (1999-2000)

* Member, Board of Trustees, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research

SEARCH Faculty

SEARCH I

Casebeer, Ann, University of Calgary (External Training Coordinator)

Church, John, University of Alberta (External Training Coordinator)

Abrams, Howard, University of Toronto

Fick, Gordon, University of Calgary

Fried, Bruce, University of North Carolina

Hall, Ed, University of Alberta

Harrison, Alexandra, University of Calgary

Harstall, Christa, Alberta Health

Harvey, Michael, Alberta Health

Hayward, Robert, McMaster University

Hessel, Patrick, University of Alberta

Horseman, John, McMaster University

Jacobs, Philip, University of Alberta

Laing, Lory, University of Alberta

Lau, Francis, University of Alberta

McLeod, Laura, University of Calgary

Newman, Stephen, University of Alberta

Plain, Richard, University of Alberta

Rankin, Jim, University of Calgary

Rose, Sarah, University of Calgary

Saunders, Duncan, University of Alberta

Serediak, Martin, University of Alberta

Shores, Sandra, University of Alberta

Spence, Matthew, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research

Swann, David, University of Calgary

Thornley, Richard, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research

Thurston, Wilfreda, University of Calgary

Verhoef, Marja, University of Calgary

Waddington, Mike, Information Technology Consultant (Edmonton, Alberta)

SEARCH II

Casebeer, Ann, University of Calgary (SEARCH Coordinator)

Voaklander, Don, University of Alberta (SEARCH Coordinator)

Belanger, Claire, Alberta Health

Birdsell, Judy, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research

Donaldson, Cam, University of Calgary

Doze, Sandra, Crossroads Regional Health Authority

Fick, Gordon, University of Calgary

Hailey, David, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research

Hammond, Lois, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research

Hayward, Robert, University of Alberta

Hayward, Sarah, Infoward (Edmonton, Alberta)

Hessel, Patrick, University of Alberta

Hutchinson, Bonnie, Hutchinson Associates

Jacobs, Philip, University of Alberta

Johnson, Jeffery, University of Alberta

Laing, Lory, University of Alberta

MacKean, Gail, University of Calgary

Matthias, Sharon, EDM Management (Edmonton, Alberta)

Menon, Devidas, Institute of Pharmaco-Economics (Edmonton, Alberta)

Noseworthy, Tom, University of Alberta

Reading, Jeff, Victoria, British Columbia

Saunders, Duncan, University of Alberta

Scott, Catherine, University of Calgary

Shores, Sandra, University of Alberta

Simpson, Jennifer, Provincial Mental Health Board

Sletten, Mona, Calgary Regional Health Authority

Spence, Matthew, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research

Stephens, Brian, Workers' Compensation Board

Thornley, Richard, Infoward Inc. (Edmonton, Alberta)

Thurston, Wilfreda, University of Calgary

Tjosvold, Lisa, University of Alberta

Verhoef, Marja, University of Calgary

Alberta Consultative Health Research Network (*ACHRN*) - Core Team

Paddock, Rosemary, University of Calgary

Spragins, Wendy, University of Calgary

Triska, Ollie, University of Alberta

Verhoef, Marja, University of Calgary

6 AHFMR PUBLICATIONS

HTA Publications

HTA Reports

Health technology assessment reports are detailed publications, usually with comprehensive literature and data review and levels of analysis.

- Alternative Interventions Survey, May 1996
- Interface Pressure Measurement Systems for Management of Pressure Sores, September 1996
- Posteroventral Pallidotomy for Parkinson's Disease, January 1997
- In Vitro Fertilization and Embryo Transfer as a Treatment for Infertility, March 1997
- Assessment of Tele-health Applications. Version 1, October 1997
- Computerized Gait Analysis in the Rehabilitation of Children with Cerebral Palsy and Spina Bifida, October 1997
- Evaluation of a Tele-psychiatry Pilot Project, November 1997
- Dynamic Posturography in the Rehabilitation of Stroke, Brain-Injured and Amputee Patients, February 1998
- Stereotactic Radiosurgery: Options for Albertans, March 1998
- Hyperbaric Oxygen Treatment in Alberta, April 1998
- Functional Diagnostic Imaging in Epilepsy, August 1998
- Quantitative Ultrasound for Bone Density Measurement, September 1998
- Diagnostic Tests for Vaginosis/Vaginitis, October 1998
- Cord Blood Transplantation, December 1998
- Intraocular Lenses for Uncomplicated Senile Cataract, June 1999
- Treatment Options for Acoustic Neuroma, July 1999
- Functional Diagnostic Imaging Technologies in the Assessment of Myocardial Viability, October 1999
- Brachytherapy for Prostate Cancer, October 1999
- Low-level Laser Therapy for Wound Healing, October 1999
- Allogenic Stem Cell Tranplantation, January 2000

Health Technology Briefs

Health technology briefs are shorter publications covering more specific issues on health care technologies. Health technology assessments and briefs are both externally reviewed by persons with interest or expertise in the field being considered.

- Ultrasound Measurement of Post-Void Residual Urine Volume, August 1996
- Percutaneous Ethanol Injection Therapy as a Treatment for Hepatic Cancer, May 1997
- Aspirin in the Primary Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease and Colon Cancer, November 1997
- Selective Testing with Bone Density Measurement, May 1999
- Use of In-111 Capromab Pendetide in Detecting Metastatic Prostate Cancer, November 1999
- Multiple Chemical Sensitivity: Etiology, Epidemiology, Diagnosis and Treatment, December 1999

Joint Publications

Joint publications are the product of collaboration between the AHFMR Technology Assessment group and other research bodies.

- Health Economics Research Group, Brunel University – Assessing the 'Payback' from AHFMR Funded Research, January 1999
- International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment – The Assessment of Telemedicine. General Principles and a Systematic Review, August 1999
- An Analysis of the Relationship between Use of Technologies for AMI and Health Expenditure. A Collaborative Project with the Institute of Health Economics, November 1999
- Institute of Health Economics, Health Expenditure and Technology Project. Technologies Used for Managing and Preventing Acute Myocardial Infarction, August 1999
- International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment (INAHTA): The Effectiveness of Bone Density Measurement and Associated Treatments for Prevention of Fractures, Statement of Findings, September 1996 (Summary document also available)
- Background Paper One: Methods Used in the Measurement of Bone Density, July 1996
- Background Paper Two: Predictive Value of Bone Densitometry, July 1996
- Background Paper Three: A Review of the Evidence of Hormone Replacement Therapy and Calcitonin in Reducing Bone Loss and Fractures, September 1996

Technotes

Technotes are brief reports intended to provide short-term advice in response to urgent requests related to policy or administrative decisions. These publications are not externally reviewed.

- Phalloplasty in Female-Male Transsexuals, December 1996
- The Use of Electrical Stimulation to Promote Healing of Fractures, October 1996
- Availability of Thrombolytic Therapy in the Emergency Room, October 1996
- Cord Blood Transplantation, November 1996
- Scanning Laser Ophthalmoscope for Diagnosis and Monitoring of Glaucoma, December 1996
- Stem Cell Transplantation, January 1997
- Radiosurgery in the Treatment of Malignant Melanoma, February 1997
- Vaginoplasty in Male-Female Transsexuals and Criteria for Sex Reassignment Surgery, February 1997
- Intrathecal Baclofen Using an Implantable Infusion Pump, February 1997
- Graduated Compression Stockings to Prevent and Treat Venous Insufficiency, April 1997
- Extracorporeal Life Support for Children and Adults, July 1997
- Air Plethysmography for Venous Evaluation, November 1997
- Brachytherapy for Treatment of Prostate Cancer, November 1997
- Vagus Nerve Stimulation for Refractory Epilepsy, November 1998
- Telephone Nurse Triage Services, April 1998
- Body Stereotactic Radiosurgery, May 1998
- Lung Volume Reduction Surgery, May 1998
- Human Growth Hormone for Turner's Syndrome, June 1998
- Cryosurgery for Prostate Cancer, June 1998
- Implantable Left Ventricular Assist Devices, December 1999
- Practitioner-initiated Advice Provided to Patients through Electronic Modes, March 2000
- Metal on Metal Surface Replacement of the Hip for Congenigal Hip Dysplasia, March 2000

Information Papers

Information papers are collections of information on health technology topics, without a "value-added" assessment component.

- Alternatives to Ethylene Oxide/Chlorofluorocarbon Sterilization, January 1996
- Reuse of Single-Use Devices: Electrophysiology Catheters, March 1998
- Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, March 1998
- Laboratory Medicine and Pathology Services Under Fixed Funding Arrangements, December 1998

Emerging Technology (*Techscans*)

- Neuronal Cell Transplants, April 1999
- Abletherm, April 1999
- Tin-117 m DTPA, April 1999
- Percutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (PENS), April 1999
- Rebetron, April 1999
- Low Intensity Ultrasound Treatment of Nonunion Fractures, April 1999
- Radio Frequency Ablation of Excess Tongue Tissue, May 1999
- Fetal Cell Transplant, May 1999
- Radiofrequency Catheter Ablation, 64 Electrode Basket Catheter, May 1999
- RepetitiveTranscranial Magnetic Stimulation, May 1999
- Voice-Controlled Arthroscopic Pump, May 1999
- Corneal Epithelial Stem-cell Transplantation, June 1999
- Intestinal Transplantation, June 1999
- Multifocal Intraocular Lenses, June 1999
- Genotypic HIV Resistance Testing, July 1999
- Continous Glucose Monitoring System, July 1999
- Rapid Cholesterol Test, July 1999
- Tc-99m Labelled Antibody Fragment for Osteomyelitis, July 1999
- AD7C Urine Test for NTP Protein, August 1999
- CyberKnife, August 1999
- Zanamivir for Inhalation (Relenza®), August 1999

- Microsphere Delivery of 5-Florouracil, August 1999
- Photofrin*, August 1999
- Sacral Nerve Stimulation, September 1999
- Visudyne, August 1999
- Mitral Valve Reconstruction, Setember 1999
- CaverMap Surgical Aid, September 1999
- Photon Radiosurgery System, September 1999
- Endo-esophageal MRI Coil, October 1999
- Implantable Pulse Generator, October 1999
- PROSORBA* Blood Filtration Column, October 1999
- Vertebroplasty, October 1999
- BRAC Analysis Genetic Test, November 1999
- Endoscopic Beating Heart Coronary Artery Bypass Graft, November 1999
- GlucoNorm*, November 1999
- OtoScan* Laser Assisted Myringotomy (OtoLAM), November 1999
- Tamiflu* (Oseltamivir Phosphate), November, 1999
- Etanercept (Enbrel*), January 2000
- Melacine Vaccine, January 2000
- MRI in Fetal Diagnosis, January 2000
- NOW* S. Pneumoniae Test, January 2000
- Free-electron Laser, March 2000
- GliaSite Radiation Therapy System, March 2000
- ReliefBand, March 2000
- Vagus Nerve Stimulation, March 2000

Tech-Wise

Tech-Wise is the HTA newsletter produced and published by AHFMR. It contains information on health technology assessment reports and TechNotes.

- Issue No. 10 November 1997
- Issue No. 11 May 1998
- Issue No. 12 December 1998
- Issue No. 13 August 1999
- Issue No. 14 February 2000

HTA Consultation Reports

Framework for Regional Health Authorities to Make Optimal Use of Health Technology Assessment – March 2000

Dissemination Publications

- Research in Practice in the Alberta Health System: Where to from here? – May 1999
- Research in Practice in Alberta: Working Together on the Research in Practice Continuum – May-August 1999
- Research in Practice Final Report - September 1999
- Research in Practice Newsletter, Issue 1 – December 1999
- Research in practice Newsletter, Issue 2 – March 2000
- Findings of the RHA/PHA Consultations – March 2000
- Seniors' Health Research Workshop – March 2000

AHFMR Reports

- Window on Future Health, 1994/95
- Crossing the Gap: Triennial Report 1996
- Research Matters, 1997
- Spectrum: Community Report and Financial Highlights for Year Ending March 31, 1998
- Third International Board of Review, October 1998
- Progression and Excellence: Triennial Report 1999

AHFMR Recurring Reports Related to Health Research

AHFMR Newsletter (*Published five times per year*) [*Since 2000 published four times per year*]

- The Good, the Bad and..., January/February 1995
- What's Her Risk of Cancer? May/June 1995
- Unmasking Depression, September/October 1995
- The Best Doctor – You, November/December 1995
- Telemedicine, January/February 1996
- Antibiotics, March/April 1996
- S.E.A.R.C.H., May/June 1996
- The Science of Optics, September/October 1996
- The Mysterious Back, November/December 1996
- The Alberta Beat – Heart Research, January/February 1997
- Basic Medical Research, March/April 1997
- Keeping Children Healthy, May/June 1997
- Deciphering Mental Illness, September/October 1997
- Eyeing the Future of Science, November/December 1997
- Sound Research Leads to Sound Sleep, New Ways to Deliver Diabetes Information, January/February 1998
- Visionary Research, The Science of Care, March/April 1998
- Research on the Immune System, May/June 1998
- Ethics and the Genetic Revolution, September/October 1998
- Bacteria, Inflammation, Near-sightedness, November/December 1998
- Cholesterol, Alcohol & Behaviour, Brain Injury, January/February 1999
- Cancer Research, March/April 1999
- Babies & Children, Arthritis, Back Pain & Heart Function, May/June 1999
- Brain Injury & Exercise, Memory, Nerve Signalling, Fall 1999
- Drug Function, Health Statistics, Injured Nerves, Winter 2000

TC News Newsletter (published three to four times per year, please note the last edition was published in September 1999, it has now merged with the AHFMR newsletter)

INDEX OF PEOPLE

Abrams, Howard 172, 185
Adair, Carol 87
Addington, Jean 1
Aiken, Linda 168
Allen, Marion N. 164
Andersen, Karen V. 155
Arboleda-Florez, Julio 39, 166
Auer, Anna 130
Auld, Christopher 141
Babiuk, Lorne 184
Baker, Glen 3
Barker, Samantha J. 155
Bateson, Alan 3, 5
Beck, Glen 164
Belenkie, Israel 5
Bell, Neil 41, 59
Belton, Kathy L. 90, 110, 130, 162
Benzies, Karen M. 153
Bergum, Vangie 136
Bernier, Francois 41
Berry, Don 174, 176, 178
Beselt, Jeffrey K. 155
Betty, Laura A. 155
Bhambhani, Yagesh 5
Biggs, Thomas 182
Birdsell, Judy 120, 164, 172
Birkett, Nicholas 167
Bishop, Laine K. 156
Black, Lyall 170, 174, 176
Bland, Roger 41, 59
Boechler, Vickie 91, 112, 114, 160
Bowker, H. Neil 173
Breen, Terrance 7
Brockway, Pamela 91, 92, 100, 160
Brown, Lesley A. 141
Bryant, Heather 43, 170
Bryceland, Christy 155
Buller, Lucy 92, 93, 114, 120, 160
Bulloch, Sally 92, 160
Burback, Lisa M. 156
Bursey, Robin 93, 160
Campbell, Robert W. 130
Campbell, Sharon 164
Campsall, Hildegard 112
Carriere, Keumhee C. 136, 149

Carriere, Serge 134
Casebeer, Anne 120, 180, 182, 185, 186
Caufield, Timothy A. 141, 143
Ceilin, Vivian 94, 160
Chahal, Anthony M. 156
Chambers, Larry 172
Chellas, Merry 174
Chouinard, Karen J. 156
Church, John 185
Cinats, John 7
Clelland, Steven 94, 110, 111, 162
Cook, Linda S. 143
Coupland, Nicholas 7
Courneya, Kerry 43
Coutts, Ronald 9
Cox, Sharon 180
Cree, Marilyn W. 130
Crisanti, Annette 61
Crites Battie, Michele C. 136, 137
Czeckowsky, Diana K. 156
Daniel, Ariadne D. 156
Darrah, Johanna 43
Davidson, Muriel 94, 115, 162
Davies, Dele 61
Davis, Herbert 174
Davis, Teresa 9
Dawe, Ursula 61, 170
Dedrick, Angie 96, 160
Deis, Kelly 96, 111, 112, 131, 160, 167, 172
Demke, Tamara L. 156
DeMoissac, Donna M. 153
Desai, Sunil 137
Dewey, Deborah 45
Diakur, James 124
Dobbs, Allen 9, 11, 45, 63
Dobson, Keith 45, 47, 63, 166
Dolphin, David 182
Donaldson, Cameron 87, 149
Dort, Joseph 28
Dougherty, Geoffrey 167
Doze, Sandra 97, 112, 115, 131, 160, 180
Dozois, David J. 155
Dryden, Donna M. 153
Dryden, William 11
Durdle, N. 124
Dyck, Ronald 171
Dyke, Lisa T. 156

Dymond, Karin E. 153
Eaton, Philip 63
Elford, Wayne 172
Elliot, Ruth 47
England, Wendy 118
Epling, Frank 48
Estabrooks, Carole 65, 155
Fang, Jian 13
Farrell, Kathy 97, 160
Farris, Karen 28, 65
Fernandes, Dellano D. 156
Fick, Gordon 180, 185, 186
Fitch, Kathryn A. 157
Flemons, Ward 30
Forbes, Dorothy Anne 119
Freund, Deborah A. 169
Friesen, Brenda 179
Frizzley, Jill K. 157
Froese, Kenneth L. 152
Gabos, Stephen 180
Ghali, William A. 137, 143, 144
Gibson, Nancy L. 152
Gilmour, Susan 48
Givens, Anne E. 178
Godkin, Dianne 118
Goldberg, Bluma 13
Gorche, Ron 98, 115, 162
Grant, Coral 131
Gray, Bette 172
Green, Lawrence W. 168
Greenshaw, Andrew 13
Greenwood, Paul 184
Hailey, David 164, 174, 176, 177, 178, 186
Halbert, Tracy 98, 160
Hamilton, Emily 184
Hamilton Tracy L. 157
Hammond, Lois 164, 174
Hanley, David 48
Hardin, Philip 65
Harrison, Rand 182
Harstall, Christa 185
Harvey, Harriet L. 157
Hasselback, Paul 67, 88, 119, 166, 170, 172
Hayward, Robert 88, 129, 168, 186
Hayward, Sarah 164
Hessel, Patrick 30, 166, 182, 185, 186
Higdon, Jodi 69

Hill, Peter 184
Ho, Suzanne....135
Hodgins, David 30, 49
Hogan, David 32, 166
Holt, Robert 69
Horner, Joanne D....157
Hornig, Joshua D....157
Hoskins, Sheryl....120
Hotchkiss, Harley 184
Howe, Linda....162
Howell, James....173
Huang, Rong....153
Huh, Jib 155
Hull, Russell....15
Humphreys, Linda....164
Irwin, Roberta....114
Irwin, Robin 93
Iverson, Donald C. 168
Jacobs, Philip 69, 186
Jardine, Cindy....167
Jarrell, John 71
Jennett, Penny A. 137
Jensen-Ross, Christine 99, 109, 114, 160
Jirsch, Dennis 178
Johnson, C. Michael 157
Johnson, Jeffrey A. 144
Johnston, Donald 32
Johnston, Glenda R. 157
Jones, C. Allyson....153
Joyce, Anthony 15
Juzwishin, Don....164
Kalinka, Sharon....179, 180
Kaplan, Bonne 165
Kaplan, Bonnie....49
Kembhavi, Gayatri....153
Kendall, Chris J. 157
Kennedy, Nelson 170
Kerr, Linda 15
Khatri, Nasreen....155
Khullar, Atul K....157
Kimberly, Barry 17, 127
King, Donna L. 157
Kingstone, Alan F. 137
Kirk, Valerie 71
Kirwin, Dianne 120
Kitchen, David 183
Kluthe, Jan 99, 100, 103, 160

Knoppers, Bartha M. 136
Knudtson, Merrill L. 17
Koning, Cynthia 71
Konnert, Candace....17, 51, 73
Kotani, Nancy 174
Kourchene, Wayne....119
Kroetsch, Michael D....157
Kulig, Judith 135, 138
Kusmirski, Maryann 138
Kysela, Gerald....166
Laing, Lory....181, 185, 186
Lamont, Mary Ellen....157
Lapins, Janet 116, 162
Lau, Francis 180
Laupacis, Andreas....169
Lavorato, Dina H. 155
Lawrence, Robert S. 168
Lee-Baggley, Dayna L. 157
Lentjes, Donna 119
Leong-Sit, Philip P. 157
Leswal, Julie C....157
Libin, Alvin 182
Linklater, David 175
Logan de Chavez, Kathy 138
Lou, Edmond H. 131
Lowden, Sandy....182
Lowe, Dennis 162
Lu, Mingshan 144
Ma, Steven H....157
Mabbot, Shelley 171
Macarthur, Colin....145
Macdonald, Ian....19
MacDonald, Tara K....145
MacKay, J.A....170
Macklem, Peter....184
MacLeod, Bruce D. 32
Magill, Chandra A. 158
Magnan, Jacques....164
Maguire, Peter....134
Maguire, Thomas O. 165
Makar, Kami L. 158
Malcolm, Christine E. 158
Manyari, Dante....73
Marck, Patricia 176
Marini, Sandra 100, 110, 162
Marks, Isaac 134
Martin, Liam....19, 34

Martin, Luis 170
Mathias, Sharon 187
Matic, John P. 158
McAlister, Finlay A. 145
McAllister, Celeste 101, 114, 162
McDonald, Bruce 182
McDonald, John 165
McEwan, James 182
McGhan, Shawna 34
McGowan, Virginia 51
McKinnon, Allison 73
McLeod, Laura 185
McMillan, Stewart 172
Meadows, Lynn 51, 53, 75, 146
Melsness, Carolyn R. 158
Menon, Devidas 138, 175, 176, 177, 178
Merlo, Werner 124
Michel, Marlon B. 158
Mitchell, Bryan 75
Mitton, Craig R. 153
Miyagawa, Mitch 132
Mokashi, Arati S. 158
Monagle, Krista L. 158
Moore, Ronald B. 19
Moritz, Ann 75
Morse, Janice M. 138, 139, 150
Mosmann, Penny 162
Munro, Brenda 53
Musselwhite, Kimberly L. 158
Mustard, Cameron 172
Musto, Richard 166
Myhre, Terri 110, 162
Nelson, Dwight 179, 180
Neufeld, Anne 166
Neufeld, Susan M. 153
Neuhauser, Duncan 169
Nevin, Bobbi J. 158
Newburn-Cook, Christine 53
Newman, Stephen 54, 165, 185
Nguyen, Thu-Ha 101, 114, 162
Nichols, Jean Ann 101, 110, 162
Normandin, Georgina 102, 114, 162
Noseworthy, Tom 172, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178
Nyland, Barbara 171
O'Beirne, Maeve 102, 111, 115, 162, 173, 180
Oliphant, Paul 76
Olley, Peter M. 76

Onyskiw, Judee E. 118
Oordt, Mary 170
Orleans, Miriam 176, 177, 178
Paddock, Rosemary 187
Page, Stacey A. 153
Pain, Kerrie S. 132
Panich, Darrell 76
Parks, Pat 103, 160
Patten, Scott 54, 146
Patterson, Eileen 103, 116, 162
Payne, Sheila 170
Penman, Yvette 104, 108, 116, 162
Perrin, Edward B. 168
Perun, R. Anna 158
Peters, Katherine 34
Petz, Steve 171
Philippon, Don 170
Phillipchuk, Debbie 178
Pickard, A. Simon 153
Plowman, Diane 104, 114, 160
Powell, James 21
Purdon, Scott 21
Quantz, Darryl 153
Rabin, Erica A. 158
Raine Travers, Kim D. 149
Rangayyan, Rangaraj 21
Rankin, Jim 185
Rapchuk, Ivan L. 158
Raso, James 122, 132
Ray, Lynne 56
Read, Sharon 164
Reading, Jeff 187
Reddon, John R. 166
Remmers, John 36, 122, 125, 165
Renaud, Marc 134
Reynolds, Nancy 179
Rhodes, Ryan E. 153
Riauka, Terence 123
Rice, Thomas 184
Richen, Dan 105, 106, 160
Ridley, Una 139
Rieger, Jana M. 153
Roberts, Helen 169
Roberts, Susan 56, 133
Robinson, John 22
Robson, Danny G. 158
Rose, Linda 78

Rose, Sarah....185
Rosenal, Tom....174
Ross, Saul....135
Ross, Sheri....163
Ross-Kerr, Janet C....78
Row, Terri....158
Rucklidge, Julia, J....155
Sarbit, M. Danielle....158
Saunders, Duncan....78, 80, 185, 187
Scarfe, Sarah E....158
Scholefield, Peter....168
Scott, Ken....170
Scott, Susan A....159
Scott, W. Richard....135
Scott-Findley, Shannon....153
Seaman, Donald....182
Sheldon, Trevor....168
Sher, Andy K....159
Sheridan, Beverly....127
Shores, Sandra....185
Silverstone, Peter....22
Simpson, Jennifer....106, 111, 115, 161, 180
Simpson, John....22
Sinclair, Allan....107, 163
Singhal, Nalini....80
Smith, Heather L....159
Smith, Neale....107, 112, 133, 161
Smith, Trent J....159
Smythe, James G....147, 153
Sommer, Sheilah....170, 174
Soper, Natasha E....159
Spady, Donald W....165
Spelten, Darlene....107, 161
Spence, Matthew....164, 168, 170, 172, 174, 179, 180, 186
Spragins, Wendy....187
Stakiw, Elaine....176, 178
Stasiuk, Sonya....108, 161
Steele, Nicholas G....159
Stewart, Miriam J....80, 89, 150
Stingl, Michael....139, 173
Strang, Vicki R....119
Strom, Branda....173
Stuart, Gavin C....82
Stuart, Heather L....139
Suarez-Almazor, Maria E....24, 36, 147, 148
Sukhrani, Nina....159
Sutherland, Lloyd R....82, 170, 172, 174, 176, 177, 178

Svanstrom, Leif....168
Swanson, Evelyn....166
Swanson, Karin E....159
Taher, Muba S....159
Tam, Teresa....24
Tanay, Veronique....82
Tennant, Wanda....114, 161
Tenove Brummitt, Sandra C....140
Teo, Koon....38
Thiara, Parminder K....159
Thomas, Chandra M....154
Thornley, Richard....186, 187
Thurber, Kathleen....164
Thurston, Wilfreda....187
Tjosvold, Lisa....187
Tough, Suzanne....56
Tourangeau, Ann E....154
Tran, Quynh M....159
Triska, Ollie....172, 187
Truman, Corrine....120
Tugwell, Peter....168
Ungar, Wendy....167
Urichuk, Liana....84
Van Dijk, Marlies....108, 116, 163
Van Rosendaal, Guido....84
Verhoef, Marja....26, 172, 182, 186, 187
Videman, K. Tapio....150
Vincenten, Joanne....133, 140
Voaklander, Don....58, 180, 181, 182
Vreeken, Ary....163
Waddington, Mike....186
Ward, Bryan....175, 176, 177, 178
Warner, Kristin....159
Warnock, Fay F....154
Warnock, Garth L....84
Warren, Marika D....159
Watting, David....129
Waye, Brenda....120
Weatherhill, Sheila....170
Webers, Mike....176
Wedel, Robert....108, 115, 116, 163
Welder, Andrea N....155
Wessel, Jean....26
West, Malcolm....58
Whitelaw, William W....86
Whitridge, Monica....109, 163
Wild, T. Cameron....140

Wilkes, Heidi R. 159
Will, Michael 183
Willox, Dave 174
Wilson, Deborah E. 140
Wilson, Douglas R. 165, 171
Wilson, Penny 171
Wolthuis, Roger 182
Wondmagegnehu, Es 154
Wong, Mel 183
Wong, Norris A. 154
Wowk, Suzanne 115, 163
Wynters, Hilary 171, 175, 176, 177, 178
Yang, Marjorie L. 159
Yanicki, Sharon 99, 109, 114, 161
Zinner, Rosalie A. 159

INDEX OF ORGANIZATIONS

Alberta Association of Registered Nurses 119, 175, 176
Alberta Centre for Injury Control and Research 90, 110
Alberta Consultative Health Research Network 172, 187
Alberta Family Practice Research Network....99, 103, 108, 111, 115, 116, 162, 163, 180
Alberta Health 39, 102, 114, 120, 161, 162, 164, 166, 167, 171, 175, 176, 178, 180, 185, 194
Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research 117, 118, 119, 120, 168, 170, 172, 174, ...176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 182, 183, 184, 186
Alberta Mental Health Board 87, 95, 102, 110, 111, 115, 161, 162
Alberta Motor Association 101, 110, 118
Alberta Physiotherapy Association (CPA/APA) 117
Alberta Science and Research Authority 171
Anlam Corp 123
Aspen Regional Health Authority 97, 111, 112, 160, 167, 172
Barnardo's 169
Biomira Inc. 170
Biomotion Ltd. 123
Calgary Regional Health Authority 5, 7, 61, 63, 67, 76, 99, 100, 103, 108, 109, 114, 116, 165, ...170,174, 179
Canadian Coordinating Office of Health Technology Assessment 175
Canadian Mental Health Association 13
Can-Am Health Concepts, Inc. 168
Capital Regional Health Authority 7, 21, 24, 65, 78, 91, 97, 114, 160, 166, 170
Case Western Reserve University 169
Chellas Communications 174
Chinook Regional Health Authority .... 67, 100, 104, 108, 109, 110, 114, 115, 116, 160, 161, ...162, 170
College of Physical Therapists of Alberta 117

Cox-Hodgeman-Giarmarco Troy 183
Crossroads Regional Health Authority 98, 112, 115, 160, 180, 186
C-Soft Programming 123
Cybernius Medical 127
David Thompson Regional Health Authority 102, 106, 107, 112, 114, 161, 162
District of Columbia, Washington 182
East Central Regional Health Authority 94, 114, 115
EDM Management 187
Garth Toombs and Associates Inc. 170
Gray and Associates 172
Headwaters Regional Health Authority .. 92, 95, 99, 104, 108, 112, 115, 116, 160, 162, 163, ... 170, 174, 179, 180
Health Canada (Alberta) 162
Hospital for Sick Children 167
Infoward Inc. 129, 187
Innovation and Science 183, 184
Inspiraplex 184
Institute of Pharmaco-Economics 87, 176, 177, 178
Johns Hopkins Hospital 168
Karolinska Institutet 168
Keeweetinok Lakes Regional Health Authority 91, 92, 95, 101, 115, 160, 162, 180
Lakeland Regional Health Authority 107, 108, 112, 161, 163
LMS Medical Systems, Montreal 184
Mabbot and Company 171
Manitoba Health Research Council 182
McGill University 184
McMaster University 172
Mercor Dental 122
Misericordia Hospital 184
Mistahia Regional Health Authority 92, 94, 114, 120, 160, 171, 175, 176
Montreal Children's Hospital 167
Northern Alberta Institute of Technology 170
Northern Lights Regional Health Authority 69, 100, 101, 103, 104, 160
Ottawa Civic Hospital 169
Palliser Regional Health Authority 98, 160, 162, 170
Peace Regional Health Authority 105, 112, 114, 115, 160, 162, 174
Professional Council of Licensed Practical Nurses 118
Provincial Mental Health Board 179
Queen's University 166
Regional Health Authority No. 5 160
Regional Health Authority No.5 ..... 105, 106
ROAM I.T. Inc. 125
Royal Canadian Mounted Police 122, 125
Saga Tech 125
Society for the Retired and Semi-Retired 120, 170
Soundcape Technologies Inc. 127

Source Medical.....174, 176, 178
Synapse Publishing 129
Syracuse University.....169
The Toronto Hospital.....172
Tom Baker Cancer Centre 82
U.T.I. 127
University of Alberta 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 19, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 48, 49, 53, 54, 56, 59, 63, 65, 69, 71, 73, 75, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 88, 89, 118, 119, 120, 141, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 162, 164, 165, 166, 168, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 180, 181, 182, 185, ...186, 187
University of British Columbia 168, 182
University of Calgary 1, 15, 17, 19, 21, 22, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 39, 41, 45, 47, 48, 49, 51, 53, 54, 58, 61, 63, 71, 73, 75, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 87, 141, 143, 144, 145, 146, 149, 153, 154, ...155, 156, 157, 158, 165, 166, 170, 172, 174, 176, 177, 178, 180, 182, 185, 186, 187
University of Colorado 176, 177, 178
University of Lethbridge.....51, 75, 141, 145, 173
University of Ottawa 167, 168
University of Pennsylvania.....168
University of Saskatchewan 164
University of Toronto 172, 185
University of Washington.....168
University of York 153, 168
Veterinary Infectious Disease Organization.....184
Western Clinical 182

INDEX OF KEYWORDS

aboriginal 51, 53, 58, 67, 121
acute care.....54
addiction 1, 30, 51, 142
alcohol 49, 51, 147
alternative medicine 1, 56
Alzheimer's disease 3, 41, 54, 80
amino acid therapy 15
anorexia.....48
antenatal.....41, 61
antidepressant.....3, 4, 5, 9, 11, 12, 69, 82
anti-psychotic drug 13, 14
anxiety disorder 5
assessment .. 1, 9, 10, 18, 28, 34, 39, 59, 63, 65, 73, 75, 146, 152, 153, 176, 178, 180, 190, ...191, 194, 196
asthma.....9, 30, 34, 36, 76, 78
atrophy.....125
bipolar 22
blindness 19

brain 3, 5, 6, 11, 13, 21, 22, 54, 69, 82
brain injury 5, 6
breast cancer 21, 23, 145
Calgary Regional Health Authority 7, 21, 63, 121, 162, 164, 165, 168, 176
cancer.....1, 21, 22, 23, 43, 56, 82, 126, 132, 145, 166, 191, 193
capacity building 143, 151
cardiac 17, 36, 38, 125, 146
cardiovascular disease 147, 191
caregiver 47, 56, 68, 75, 80
cataract.....190
cervical cancer 82
chelation therapy 17
childbirth 7, 67
children.....28, 30, 34, 41, 45, 56, 61, 69, 71, 76, 78, 126, 147, 167, 169, 176, 190, 193
chiropractic 26
chronic pain 26, 32
clozapine 13
colorectal cancer 43, 56
community 9, 28, 30, 47, 51, 56, 65, 67, 68, 73, 121, 122, 132, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139
.....140, 141, 152, 174, 196
computer 21, 41, 59, 127, 129
congestive heart failure 5, 36, 73
consultation 196
continuity of care 87
coronary artery bypass.....145, 146
Data Collection System 127
database 123, 151
decision making 131, 147, 151, 152
decision-making 87, 89, 106, 109, 152
delirium 54
dementia 9, 11, 41, 45, 54, 63, 121
dental fillings 124
depression.....3, 5, 7, 11, 17, 18, 22, 45, 47, 51, 53, 54, 55, 58, 63, 73, 76, 148
developmental delay 41, 43, 48
diabetes 58, 65, 76, 84, 142
Diagnostic Imaging.....125, 127, 190
dialysis.....15
Disease Guidance System.....131
Disinfection By-Products 154
dissemination 41, 119, 120, 121, 122, 142, 166, 176, 196
driving 9, 11, 36, 45, 120
elderly 9, 10, 11, 24, 25, 32, 39, 41, 45, 51, 54, 63, 68, 73, 120, 122, 143, 149, 150
emergency.....1, 32, 76, 78, 127, 147, 193
endometriosis 71
endoscopy 82
evaluation 1, 10, 19, 24, 26, 28, 34, 36, 43, 45, 49, 58, 63, 67, 73, 120, 121, 134, 135, 139,
.....140, 145, 147, 148, 149, 152, 190, 193

Evidence-Based Health Information 131
exercise 5, 6, 26, 32, 34, 43
family physicians 59
femoral artery 125
femoral shaft.....21
fetus.....41
fibromyalgia 19, 26, 34
gambling.....30, 49
gastrointestinal 82
genetic.....39, 138, 143, 144, 145, 153
Gyronic™ Locking Device.....126
hemostatic 125
hazardous materials 129
headache 26
health economics 143, 152, 191
health informatics.....89
health outcomes 89
health promotion.....39, 56, 78, 140, 151
health region.....78, 168
health services 1, 17, 28, 67, 69, 75, 80, 121, 122, 133, 138, 145, 146, 152, 181
health status.....39, 41, 61, 67, 80, 122, 143, 146, 148, 151, 152
hearing 17, 28, 129
hearing loss.....17, 28, 129
heart 5, 36, 73, 75, 86, 146
heart failure 5, 36, 73
hip 75, 149
hip fracture 75, 149
home care 1, 25, 61, 68
hormone replacement therapy 145, 192
hospital 1, 5, 15, 21, 24, 25, 26, 28, 32, 34, 54, 59, 61, 63, 67, 76, 78, 80, 82, 125, 127, 129, 145,
.....147, 164, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 174, 176, 186
human resources 28, 56, 143
hyperactivity 45, 76, 77
indicators 39, 53, 146
infant 17, 28, 34, 43, 47, 53, 61, 67, 69, 146
information 3, 9, 11, 13, 17, 22, 41, 45, 47, 49, 58, 121, 123, 127, 131, 148, 149, 188, 194, 196
injury 5, 6, 32, 119, 132, 147
islet84
kidney disease 38
knee 7, 24, 32
language 17, 28, 69
laparoscopic 71
laser surgery.....19
learning and attention disorders 49
lithium.....22

liver 13, 48
low birth weight 34, 53
lower back pain 24
mammogram 21
mandibula 124, 127
manic depressive 22
maternity 67
medication 54, 65, 122
mental illness 13, 59, 87
Mistahia 122
morbidity 75, 149
mortality 69, 80, 145, 146, 149
MRI 24, 126, 127, 153
native 58, 67
needs assessment 28, 63
neonatal care 34
nephrology 129
newborn 17, 28, 61, 75, 80, 129
nursing 51, 121
nutrition 15, 24, 25
outcomes 15, 25, 29, 43, 61, 63, 70, 73, 84, 120, 138, 139, 140, 143, 145, 146, 149, 150, 152
ovarian cancer 126
pain 7, 24, 26, 32, 34, 36, 37, 71, 139, 149, 150, 153
palliative care 165
panic disorder 3, 5, 7, 8, 9
perinatal 61
physical therapy 37
physician 36, 41, 59, 120, 131
posture 124
pregnancy 15
prevention 9, 38, 39, 53, 54, 55, 59, 63, 143, 147, 148, 191
primary care 41, 59, 89, 105, 118, 148
Primary Care 118
Program Budgeting and Marginal Analysis 87
prostate 19, 193
prozac 3, 9, 84
psychotherapy 1, 15, 22, 23
quality of life 13, 15, 43, 146, 150
rehabilitation 1, 73, 75, 134, 138, 190
renal failure 129
research utilization 65
respiratory disease 69
risk behaviour 53, 147
schizophrenia 1, 21, 39, 59
scoliosis 124, 126
seniors 28, 32, 63, 65, 68, 73, 75, 78, 80, 86, 119, 196
sexual health 22

sleep apnea....26, 30, 36, 71, 124, 127
sleep disorder....71, 86
smoking....53
spinal deformity....126
streptococcus....61
stroke....75, 80, 190
substance abuse....1, 2, 49, 143, 146
suicide....39
teen....53
tobacco....132, 133
tuberculosis....154
tumor imaging....126
utilization....43, 65, 73, 75, 119, 121, 122, 143, 145, 147
vein thrombosis....15
Vitamin D....48
wheelchair....125
worker's health....149
wrist....126